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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support letting the CNMI government borrow money to pay off its \$231.6 million debt with the Retirement Fund?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 17, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmiphoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Jakarta Blasts

Bombs ripped through two luxury hotels in Jakarta, killing 9 and wounding at least 50.

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Emmy Noms

Television comedy is Tina Fey's world these days. Is there room for anybody else?

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'Inconsistent' stand on Fund issue frustrates retiree. **PAGE 3**

'Exodus of doctors worrisome'



U.S. NAVY/OYAOL NGIRAIRIKL

Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel, the new commander of the Joint Region Marianas, greets military members and leaders of the military and island community at the change of command ceremony July 16 at the Guam High School gym on board U.S. Naval Hospital Guam compound in Agana Heights. Seated, center, is Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, Commander, Navy Installations Command. To his right is outgoing commander of Joint Region Marianas, Rear Adm. Bill French. To Vitale's left is Cmdr. Michael Klepacki, force chaplain for U.S. Naval Base Guam.

French hands over Marianas command to Biesel

By OYAOL NGIRAIRIKL
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GUAM—Rear Adm. Douglass Biesel has relieved Rear Adm. William French

as commander of the Joint Region Marianas in a ceremony held Thursday at the Guam High School on board U.S. Naval Hospital Guam compound.

Biesel also takes over French's role

as commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and U.S. Defense Representative for Guam, the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau.

See **FRENCH** on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Many doctors, mostly Canadian, have been leaving the Commonwealth Health Center in the past three years, prompting lawmakers to look into the situation yesterday.



Brostrom

At present, CHC has 25 doctors but in the past two months alone, five doctors left, Marcia Igitol told lawmakers at a hearing held by the

See **EXODUS** on Page 4

13 candidates in first week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 13 individuals filed their intentions to seek various positions in the November general election during the first week of the filing of candidacies, which began last Friday, July 10.

As of yesterday, two independent

See **CANDIDATES** on Page 4

Facebook, Twitter can help curb crime, says Demapan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Social networking on the Internet may not only be used purely to connect with friends and loved ones but it could also be used as a tool to curb crime in the community, according to Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

Rephrasing the adage "You cannot outrun a radio," Demapan said these days criminals are learning they cannot outrun e-mails, Facebook, or Twitter either.

Demapan urged the CNMI's community corrections professionals to set up a special Internet system that would help them do their jobs better at curbing crime.

"Let me suggest something for you to explore, and we

See **FACEBOOK** on Page 4



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, third from right, expresses the government's appreciation to the efforts of community corrections professionals before signing a proclamation for the 9th Annual Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week yesterday at the Supreme Court. Also in photo are, from left, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, Board of Parole chair Ramon B. Camacho and Chief Parole Officer Lee Guerrero.

Local

Man allegedly hits two brothers with baseball bat

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A 22-year-old man is now in jail facing multiple charges after allegedly hitting two men with a baseball bat on Rota last Tuesday.

Police identified his victims as brothers Anthony Reyes and

Alan Reyes.

Police arrested the suspect, Tarek Barhoum, on Wednesday. He was brought to Saipan on Thursday and appeared at a bail hearing on the same day.

He was charged with aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing

the peace.

He was represented by assistant public defender Matthew Holley. Assistant attorney general William Downer appeared on behalf of the government.

Barhoum is now in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Superior Court presiding

judge Robert C. Naraja imposed a \$15,000 cash bail.

A preliminary hearing is set for July 23 at 9am.

Based on detective Francis B. Manglona's report, the Department of Public Safety received a call around 12:30pm on July 14 of a fight next to the Harvest Market in Songsong Village, Rota.

Responding police saw Barhoum, who admitted hitting two men with a baseball bat.

The victims were brought to the Rota Health Center for treatment.

Anthony Reyes told police that he and his brother Alan were at his brother's girlfriend's house for lunch when he saw the defendant's mountain bike.

Reyes allegedly hid Barhoum's bike to get even with

him for an earlier fight they had on the evening of July 11. Reyes told police that he sustained a black eye but that fight was not reported to the police.

Three days later, the Reyes brothers carried Barhoum's bike and brought it to the back of the Perpetual Help Chapel just as the defendant was passing by on a white sedan.

Reyes said Barhoum contacted

See MAN on Page 4

Inos wants study on Tinian homestead bill

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos wants a study done first to back up a bill that seeks to designate at least 50 percent of available public land on Tinian for homesteads.

In an interview, Inos said the Fitial administration will look into the legislation the Senate recently approved as it is im-

portant to know how many applicants are seeking homesteads on Tinian.

"But I'm sure it would have to be based on some study or that there is a demand for homesteads. I'm sure that should be the guiding principle for that kind of legislation," he said.

Inos said he wants a review of the legislation's purpose.

"It's a public knowledge that about two-thirds of Tinian is on a military retention. I don't know how many lots 50 percent of public land from the one-third remaining would be available. Again it is one thing that we

have to take a look," he said.

Introduced by Floor Leader Jude Hofschneider, Senate Bill 16-58 unanimously passed the Senate on final reading in a session last week.

Tinian's public lands are limited as the U.S. Department of Defense leases approximately two-thirds of the vacant public lands on the island.

Hofschneider said the lease of such a large portion has severely hindered the homestead program on the island.

"Allocating a portion of public lands on Tinian for current and future homestead development is in the best interest of Tinian residents who are of Northern Marianas descent," he told *Saipan Tribune* earlier.

Under the legislation, the Department of Public Lands will be tasked to identify and inventory all public lands on the island that are vacant and undeveloped.

DPL will be given up to Dec. 31, 2009, to complete the inventory and the DPL Secretary will be authorized to commit 50 percent of the lands for homesteads. (Ferdie dela Torre)

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'Inconsistent' stand on Fund issue frustrates retiree

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth retiree is disappointed and frustrated with Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan's alleged inconsistent stand on the many issues surrounding retirees and the NMI Retirement Fund but the senator defended herself, saying it all comes down to doing the math.

In an e-mail sent to the senator Tuesday, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, Ruth Tighe said she's deeply troubled by the lawmaker's stance on Fund issues.

"It is so inconsistent with your seemingly thorough understanding of the other budget issues, so contrary to all the intelligent findings and recommendations you've offered in the Senate, so obviously a huge blind spot in your vision that it is very hard to reconcile with the Frica I know, who has integrity, and logic and reason and wisdom and intelligence behind her to support everything she says in regard to the CNMI's fiscal affairs," the retiree told the senator.

Pangelinan earlier said there was no need for the Fund to pursue a lawsuit with the government, which owes the agency \$231.6 million based on a recent court judgment. Instead, she pushed for negotiations.

Tighe pointed out the Fund has long asked for negotiations, to no avail. "Now it is a legal requirement that there be negotiations, and even now the administration is dragging its feet," she said.

Tighe said the Fund has gone out of its way to find ways of managing repayment that will not bankrupt the government. She also blamed the Legislature for the current mess "not only because it passed many laws adding unfunded benefits...but also because it gave the governor such wide leverage in reprogramming funds."

This, she said, allowed the government to not remit even legislated appropriations to the Fund such as 30 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 20 percent of the alcohol container tax.

"Where did those moneys go? Why did the MVA get its

share of these taxes, but not the Retirement Fund?" she asked.

'No to \$200M bond float'

Tighe disagreed with the idea of floating a \$200 million bond to pay the Fund, presenting Pangelinan with a list of "30 eminently reasonable items" to start a meaningful discussion with the government.

Among these are to reduce the size of the Legislature, stop the \$300,000 allocation to the Governor's Office, stop the \$150,000 allowances to certain legislators, stop waste in government, privatize the hospital and CUC, stop the \$20 million allocation to the Saipan delegation and earmark this to the Fund, redirect the tobacco fund of \$5 million that goes to PSS, and stop government from renting and leasing private buildings.

Also on the list are ceasing the housing allowances for outside hires, redirecting all land leases from hotels and golf courses to the Fund, earmarking all cover over taxes to the Fund, stopping filling vacant government posts, decreasing or eliminating tax

rebates for the meantime, and giving MPLT's interest earnings to the Fund.

Waste of resources

In her response yesterday, Pangelinan reiterated her opposition to any litigation, describing it as an "incredible waste of resources especially in this time of economic distress."

The senator also disagreed with the Fund's decision to allow qualified persons to retire if their employer contributions are deficient.

"In my view the [Fund] is exercising their fiduciary responsibility inequitably," Pangelinan said, pointing out that this has caused some to go to court.

The senator emphasized that the unfunded liability is not just a result of deficient employer

contributions. "Lack of returns and losses on investments that occur through decisions made by the DBP board become part of the unfunded liability as well and the central government is liable," she said.

She said when she discusses layoffs and austerity measures, it is not because she is opposed to paying the Fund.

"The math simply shows that since funds for most government operations and services are already cut nearly to the bone, most additional funds for the DBP are going to come from personnel expenditures," the senator explained.

Pangelinan cited several reasons behind her support for the legislative initiative, primarily because it will bring the proposal to the people who will either

approve it or not.

The senator said that all people in the Commonwealth already pay for the DBP via taxes and fees. The fiscal reality, she said, is that CNMI has been "borrowing" money from the Fund to finance government operations for years and not "charging" the taxpayers.

"This was not proper, is not proper, but it has happened, and must be dealt with," she said.

She said she received several lists of resources that might be tapped to this end.

"They run the gamut. Some are unique and inspired; some not feasible, but to the credit of the people of the CNMI, this brainstorming is a heartening illustration of a people's commitment to their community," she said.

Kilili co-sponsors student aid legislation

Bill is single largest investment in higher education in history

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has signed on as an original co-sponsor to the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which is being touted as the single largest investment in higher education in history.

Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives Thursday by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), Sablan said the bill is expected to provide significant benefit to community colleges such as the Northern Marianas College.

Speaking at the White House, President Obama said the legislation will "help us reach the goal I set out in Michigan this week to graduate five million more Americans from community colleges by 2020."

Obama said the bill make the largest investment in community colleges in 50 years and challenges these institutions to increase completion rates, strengthen ties with businesses, modernize facilities, and offer online learning opportunities.

The bill, H.R. 3221, would raise \$100 billion by transferring all federal student loans from private lenders to the government-run Direct Loan Program by 2010.

The \$100 billion savings from subsidies paid to banks for fees and loan guarantees will be re-invested instead in community colleges and other institutions of higher learning, as well as directly in students through increased Pell Grant scholarships, and lower interest rates on tuition loans.

"I continue to say that we have to focus on education if we want to make a difference that

will last 30, 50 years into the future," said Sablan.

"Working for passage of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act is just one more way I can use my seat in Congress and my seat in the House Education and Labor Committee to make changes in the lives of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands today and long into the future."

The legislation makes college more affordable by increasing Pell Grants each year to keep pace with inflation. The bill will also simplify financial aid forms to increase the number of students who can get tuition assistance.

Under the current setup government pays private lenders to make the loans and administer them. The federal government also often pays to buy back those loans from private companies when they are no longer profitable.

By transitioning to all direct lending, Congress will eliminate those subsidies, bringing savings to taxpayers and reinvesting in student loans. The Direct Loan program is insulated from market swings.

Congress also believes that these changes will bring better customer service. Private lenders will be allowed to compete for contracts to service loans, ensuring that students receive the best service available. Non-profit lenders will also have the opportunity to continue servicing loans.

Of the \$100 billion in savings,

\$40 billion will go to increasing the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and \$6,900 in 2019. The bill will also link the scholarship to the Consumer Price Index to help it keep up with the costs students face.

An additional \$3 billion will go to college access and completion programs, including competitive and challenge grants to schools and organizations that create innovative support programs for students. Changes to the Perkins Loan Program and the interest rates on federal student loans will ensure that students are better able to pay back any money they do borrow.

Many of these programs will take place at community colleges, which will receive grants to spur innovation in business coordination and workforce training. Money will also be available to ensure access to community colleges and completion of degree programs, as well as improvements to facilities.

To make sure that all students who are eligible for aid receive it, the legislation calls for simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and sharing information with the IRS to make the application process easier and more comprehensive.

Finally, some of the savings from this legislation will be invested in school modernization programs, Early Learning Challenge Grants to improve kindergarten readiness and access to early childhood programs, and reducing the federal deficit. (PR)



Sablan

Earn money and help stop crime on Saipan

Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for tips that lead to arrest

NMI Crime Stoppers is again offering to pay for tips that lead to the arrest of criminals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This month NMI Crime Stoppers is pushing for more tips on the growing problem of copper wire theft.

Any person having any information about all of the previous thefts of copper wire should call the anonymous tip hotline at 234-7272 and give any information they have. You could

receive up to \$1,000 if your tip leads to an arrest. The call is completely anonymous and the person answering will most likely be part of the NMI CS answering service based in Canada (no chance of local ID). The tipster can earn money and help Saipan, Tinian, or Rota. This effort to help stop the copper wire thefts is courtesy of NMI Crime Stoppers and Bridge Capital.

Crime Stoppers is a non-prof-

it, volunteer group that helps collect tips about crimes. The Crime Stoppers then pass the tips on to Department of Public Safety. Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for tips that lead to an arrest. NMI Crime Stoppers was helpful to DPS in recent crimes and has paid for numerous tips in 2009. The community of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are very important part in helping DPS solve crimes. (PR)

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Work begins on national healthcare reform

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House Education and Labor Committee began Wednesday what is likely to be many days of debate on the bill that will overhaul the nation's healthcare system and Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) intends to make sure that the CNMI and other U.S. territories are not left behind.

H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act, is the House's response to President Obama's signature policy goal: national healthcare reform. He promised the bill would be his focus for the next several weeks, until both

the House and the Senate have acted.

On Thursday [Friday on Saipan], Sablan offered an amendment to the bill committing Congress to providing access to quality, affordable health care for Americans in the U.S. insular areas.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, Sablan made the following statement during Wednesday's opening debate:

"Chairman Miller, Chairman Andrews, I believe that what we do here today and in the coming days and weeks to create health care reform and

bring relief to Americans will come to define the 111th Congress.

"I know this has not been an easy task. What we are doing is complex and difficult, but we know that it will make a difference in many, many lives. We must remedy the disparities that exist in America's health care system.

"I want to thank the Chairmen for their leadership. Crafting this huge bill in such a short period of time and moving so quickly to institute these much-needed reforms is a remarkable accomplishment in itself.

"And I want to thank the staff for

all their hard work. I have seen them here on the weekends and late into the night, giving up time with their friends and families to bring these changes to life. Thank you for your counsel, support, and guidance on these issues which are so important to all Americans and to Americans in the territories.

"President Obama has pledged to include all Americans in health care reform and I, for one, am committed to do all that I can to help our President keep his promise. To do this, I respectfully ask that changes be made to the many portions of the bill where the four and a half million Americans living in the U.S. territories are excluded. Tomorrow

Mr. Pierluisi and I will introduce an amendment that will place the future of our constituents' health care options on the table for discussion as we move forward in the legislative process.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us. But no matter how difficult the work, or how many late nights it requires, we cannot abandon this goal.

"Enacting this legislation will make long-lasting difference to Americans, to Americans in the territories, and to Americans in the Northern Mariana Islands, and I am certain that we will work hard to ensure that the President and this Congress keep our promise to Americans everywhere." (PR)



Rear Adm. Bill French speaks during a change of command ceremony July 16 at the Guam High School gym on board U.S. Naval Hospital Guam compound in Agaña Heights.

U.S. NAVY/OYAOL NGIRAIRIKL

FRENCH

From Page 1

French will be taking command of Navy Region Southwest in San Diego in August 2009.

The guest speaker, Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, commander of the Navy Installations Command, said that French's leadership has been exemplary, helping build a stronger relationship between various military branches, and between the military and island community. Vitale said French's commitment is reflected in the success of Joint Region Marianas.

"Joint Region Marianas is a crucial command in the Pacific and is growing in importance each day," Vitale said. "And Bill's commitment is a primary reason it's been so successful."

With the changes happening in Guam and the Western Pacific region, Vitale said that Biesel is the right person to step in as commander of the Joint Region Marianas, ensuring solid level of continuity from one regional commander to another.

"We're very fortunate to have Doug leading Joint Region Marianas as it continues its successful journey," Vitale said.

French read his orders and impressed upon the men and women of Guam, uniformed and civilian, to maintain the spirit of patriotism and working together to create a safer, brighter future for generations.

"Today's ceremony isn't about a single individual. It's about a great command, great accomplishments, great people, and a great community,"

he said. "Guam is a small island but it has a global reach. Whether sending an explosive ordnance detachment to support the war in Iraq or deploying a Seal unit to an undesignated location, Guam is central to our nation's defense."

French said Biesel's experience with joint basing will benefit the region. Biesel oversaw the consolidation of most U.S. Naval installation facilities in Washington State, west of Puget Sound, as the first commanding officer of Naval Base Kitsap. Naval Base Kitsap received the U.S. president's Commander in Chief's award for Installation Excellence for the best base in the Navy.

"We have proven our adaptability and responsiveness to meet a changing security landscape, but above all we hope and pray that our efforts will deter conflict and promote a more stable and peaceful world," Biesel said. "I will dedicate my energies to continue your outstanding efforts that Adm. Bill French had the privilege of leading. ... It will be an honor and a privilege for me to serve with such a professional and dedicated team as we face the challenges in the years ahead." (USN)

FACEBOOK

From Page 1

need to try and innovate because, as you know, our economic situation is not getting any better," Demapan said. "Set up a special Internet system to improve what we have. Let's explore the use of these technologies by using any available federal grants to combat crimes and criminal activities."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expressed support for the idea.

Demapan and Fitial were at the CNMI Supreme Court yesterday to jointly sign the proclamation for the 9th Annual Probation, Parole and Community Officers' Week on July 19-25.

Community corrections professionals are responsible for supervising adult and juvenile offenders.

Fitial said this is the first time in the CNMI that two branches of government are signing a proclamation at the same time.

Demapan said these officers "are heroes and beacon of lights in a sometime dangerous world, a select few who are capable to use intellect, compassion and the use of force when necessary."

Their role, he said, is to "prevent the tyranny of the lawless and to preserve the freedom of the law abiding."

"The safety of our streets and the safety of our communities is one of the highest priorities we share," Demapan said.

As criminals get more sophisticated, Demapan said the officers must also be properly equipped to combat them.

"By giving you the resources and the tools to do your jobs better, not only will you keep us safer, we will make the entire Commonwealth safer and stronger for our future," Demapan said.

He also reminded the officers that they took their present job to protect their family, friends and neighbors.

"To be honest, it goes against human nature to head toward danger instead of away from it, but I am glad our Commonwealth is blessed with folks like

you who place such a high value on the lives of others," Demapan said.

He also thanked Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos for signing into law the bill that allows the assessment of mandatory probation fees.

In his remarks, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo emphasized the importance of the officers' jobs.

"Many people believe that the legal process ends in court when a judge pronounces sentence. That is not true," Govendo said, adding that most of the work starts after the judge pronounces his sentence.

Govendo said many offenders go to jail, but are put on probation and that's when the real work begins for community corrections officers.

"It is time consuming work, often tedious and sometimes dangerous. It requires patience, commitment, much follow-up and a lot of compassion. It requires sacrifices, a lot of face-to-face meetings, investigation and of course a mountain of paperwork," Govendo said.

Herman T. Guerrero was the first to file for his re-election bid for the Saipan BOE seat while Tinian's board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita is expected to file her documents in the next weeks.

The election commission has set Aug. 10 as the deadline for all candidates to file their applications, after which all documents will be reviewed by the commission for certification.

The official list of candidates for all positions are expected to be issued after a month of review.

As of July 13, there were a total of 14,517 registered voters in the CNMI.

The commission said yesterday the figure covers both new registered voters and re-registered voters on all three islands. The commission will accept voters' registration until Sept. 18.

CANDIDATES

From Page 1

teams have already registered to run for the governor and lieutenant governor positions. The tandem of Ramon S. Guerrero and Dr. David Borja was the first entries on the Election Commission's record in the early morning of July 10. They were followed by the tandem of Juan Guerrero and Joseph Camacho last Tuesday.

Both groups trooped to the commission with their staunch supporters and families.

As of yesterday, three individuals submitted papers to run as senators. Calista Pendergrass and Jovita Taimanao, both from Rota, were the

first senator-wannabes to show up at the commission. On Saipan, senatorial aspirant Paul William DLG. Camacho also filed his candidacy.

All nine Senate seats are up for grabs in November, with three to be chosen for each island—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Five others prospective candidates are vying for municipal council seats, all from Rota: Prudencio Manglona, Eusebio Manglona, Brian Manglona, Vicente Hocog, and Alfred Apatang.

Two mayoralty candidates also took advantage of the filing period's first week. They are Melchor Mendiola and Steve Mesngon, who will both run for the same seat on Rota.

There are two vacant positions for the CNMI state Board of Education this year.

EXODUS

From Page 1

House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare.

Igitol, the Human Resources chief at the Department of Public Health, said two other doctors who are a couple are in the process of moving to Guam.

CHC officials said that, to be effective, the hospital must have at least 45 doctors.

Rep. David Apatang raised the question foremost in people's minds: Why are the doctors leaving CHC?

In response, Dr. Florian Braig cited three reasons: higher salaries elsewhere, lifestyle, and working condition such as low morale among staff.

Braig said that Guam offers doctors significantly higher salaries.

Medical director Dr. Richard Brostrom echoed this, saying that CHC has been losing doctors the past three years because of the lower salary here.

Brostrom said CHC has been recruiting doctors only from Canada and the U.S. mainland.

fronted them and he punched the defendant's face.

The two fought but when Reyes said they should stop and go home, Barhoum took a baseball bat from his car and chased the brothers, who sustained several bruises.

Alan Reyes sustained a fractured bone on his left forearm.

Brostrom said the hospital has several available positions, but the problem is that doctors from Canada and U.S. are discouraged by the lower salary.

He said the \$85 an hour that doctors get should be raised to at least \$120 to make the CNMI competitive in hiring doctors.

Braig said Canadian doctors find the \$85 hourly rate "ridiculous" as they are earning \$200 an hour in their own country.

Committee chair Ralph Torres said he was prompted to call for the hearing because they have received a lot of complaints about alleged bad treatment people get from CHC staff, particularly at the Emergency Section.

Torres said patients have allegedly been asked to wait for two hours or more.

Brostrom said the Emergency Section is a high-stress area so it is very important to conduct customer service training for ER staff.

Brostrom said when there were still many personnel at the Emergency Section, they received fewer complaints from the community.

BRM to host amateur band contest, fashion show

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2009 Saipan Summer Jam and Glam will be held Aug. 30 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa, organizer *Beach Road Magazine* announced this week.

To make it more exciting, BRM account manager Susan Marchitti said they have decided to include a fashion show to

combine with the event's main feature, which is the amateur band competition.

Marchitti said Joeten Shopping Center and its affiliates Borderline and Athlete's Foot are co-sponsoring this year's event as part of the 60th anniversary activities of Joeten Enterprises.

The other major sponsors are Shell, Northern Marianas College, Marpac, Tan Holdings,

Florida-based Adam's Marine Seminars, and Coca Cola.

Open to all ages, the amateur band competition will last up to five hours, just like the successful battle of the bands last year at Club V of Saipan Grand Hotel.

"It will be a family affair," said Marchitti.

Some 15 *Beach Road* models will be featured, along with young models from

NMC, in the fashion show part of the event.

"It would be kind of back-to-school theme," Marchitti said.

Unlike last year, there will only be six instead of 10 amateur bands competing, to give enough time to the fashion show.

Marchitti said interested bands could contact the BRM now because several groups have already signified their

intention to compete and the slots are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Interested bands may call 235-7645 or 4833145. There will be no entry fee for the competing bands.

Prizes will be \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place.

Tickets for the show will be \$5 with one free non-alcoholic drink.

"We're excited about it. It would be a different kind of fun for the community to enjoy," Marchitti said.

Last year's show drew a full house crowd at Club V.

"Most people stayed for the whole show. So we have to find a bigger place to accommodate everyone. It would be a Sunday afternoon affair for the whole family," she said.

King urges professionals to volunteer their expertise to teach local students

TINIAN—Janet King, a local attorney based on Tinian, delivered a short course on public speaking to Tinian junior high and high school students last week. King volunteered as a lecturer and mentor to support the NMC TRIO Program on Tinian.

"My great interest in public speaking as a skill goes way back to the time I was 14," said King. "I was tasked with engaging in a debate with other summer

school participants at Yale. I was terrified, and probably did all the wrong things, but it was the best experience of my life, because I knew I wanted to do better."

Her presentation was based on materials obtained from the Harvard Business School and a book by Dale Carnegie.

"These are the same materi-

als I used when I started learning more about public speaking, and they are straightforward and practical," said King.

The students were asked to rate the short course and they were in agreement that public speaking is a terrifying but a continuous learning process.

"I learned that no matter

how nervous or scared you get when giving a speech, you should always stand tall and stay positive, and always be confident," reported one student, age 15.

"I learned not to give up!" reported another student, age 16.

"I learned to be more confident

while having people watch and listen, and pay attention," reported another student, age 17.

King urged other members of the Tinian community to volunteer their expertise.

Though juggling a busy law practice, King will continue to volunteer her time to the TRIO

Program. "There is so much satisfaction when one gives back to their community, in big and small ways," she said.

TRIO programs benefit junior high and high school students and is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. (PR)



King

BoG Worldperks Visa launched Northwest-Delta partners with local bank

HAGATNA, Guam—Officials of the Bank of Guam and Northwest Airlines, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, announced yesterday the launch of the Bank of Guam Worldperks Visa credit card.

Current Bank of Guam Visa cardholders may register their Northwest AirlinesWorldperks account number with their Visa card by returning their letter received to the Bank of Guam with the WorldPerks account number, or register their WorldPerks account number with Bank of Guam online at www.bankofguam.com. Applications for new WorldPerks Visa Credit Cards are at all Bank of Guam branches (except San Francisco) and on its website at <http://www.bankofguam.com>

To commemorate the launch of this important new value to the island community, the following are being offered for a limited time:

- 5,000 bonus miles
- Buy 1, get 1 free airline ticket travel

Delta Air Lines is the world's largest airline. Together with its Northwest subsidiary and Delta Connection carriers, Delta offer service to 382 destinations in 71 countries and serves more than 170 million passengers each year. Delta's marketing alliances allow customers to earn and redeem either SkyMiles or WorldPerks on more than 16,000 daily flights offered by SkyTeam and other partners.

Bank of Guam is the largest locally owned bank on Guam and the western Pacific. With 22 branches and over 75 automatic teller machines, the Bank has earned a strong presence throughout its market areas. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lou Leon Guerrero, left, Bank of Guam President, CEO and board chair, holds up a giant replica of a Visa Worlperks card with Richard Parsons, NWA/Delta Airlines general manager, Guam and Saipan, during the card's launch yesterday's at Gate 8 of the Guam International Airport.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on July 21st, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before July 21st.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than July 21st. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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DCCA CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS (CNMI-wide)

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be doing a pre-eligibility assessment for new applicants for the Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the island of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The pre-eligibility assessment for Saipan will be done on **Thursday, July 23, 2009** at the Multi-Purpose Hall, at 9:00a.m. The first 100 applicants who qualify during the pre-eligibility assessment will be given an application to complete. When the 100 applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications.

Pre-eligibility assessment for the islands of Tinian and Rota will be done at their respective DCCA Office.

Parents and/or guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

- Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross earnings (both parents)
- Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)
- School documents (acceptance letter, class schedule, etc.)
- Training schedule

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office, no later than **Friday, July 31, 2009 at 12:00p.m.** Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this time and date will not be accepted.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

DCCA Child Care Program Office
Caller Box 10007
Building no. 1347 Ascension Ct.
Capital Hill, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-2575/76
Fax No. 664-2570

For this program opening approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and is only valid for one year.

Requirements:

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents
 - a. House Rental/ Mortgage
 - b. Utility Receipt
 - c. Telephone Receipt
 - d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The next frontier: Energy

Roughly 240,000 miles above this blue rock is a metal plaque bearing the words, "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon July 1969, A.D. We came in peace for all mankind." Today, as we memorialize the launch of the mission that put it there 40 years ago, we should also remember the mission's central lesson—that given the political will, there are few things this nation cannot achieve.

Proposing to send human beings to the moon and back by the end of the decade, as President John F. Kennedy did in 1961, seemed as unlikely a prospect then as, say, weaning the United States off foreign oil by 2020 is today. Fortunately for Kennedy, he had fear on his side. NASA had been created in 1958 in response to the launch of the Sputnik satellite by the Soviet Union, which led to the terrifying realization that superior U.S. air power could be nullified by superior Soviet missile technology. NASA was technically in charge of civilian space programs, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency handled military programs, but it seemed to Cold Warriors on both sides that the winner of the moon race would also be the winner of the quest to militarize space.

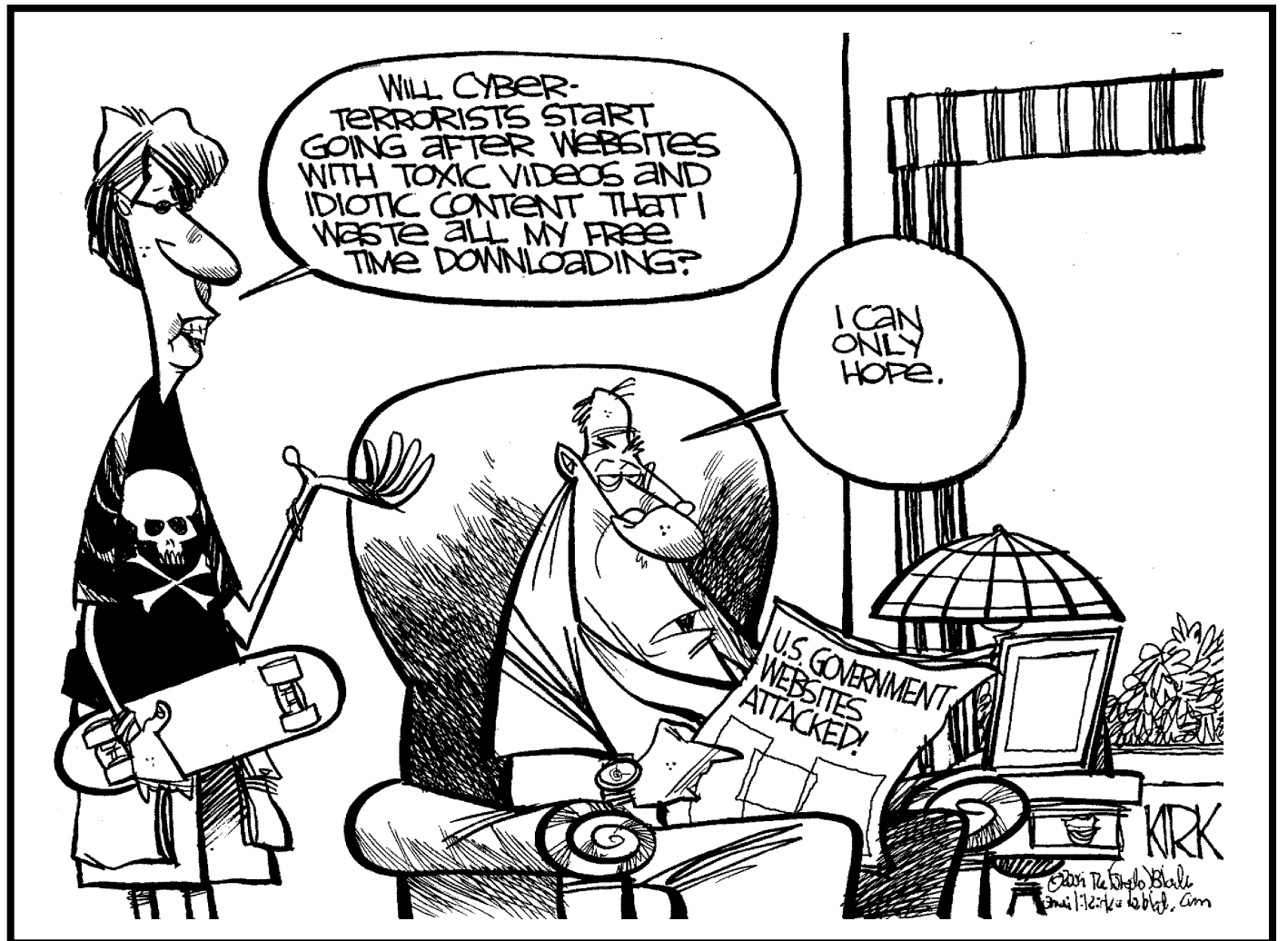
As it turned out, the U.S. was the winner in consumer technology as well. Government-sponsored research and development into manned spaceflight led to thousands of new discoveries and products. Baby formula, springy athletic shoes, fireproof materials and cordless tools are among the results (but not, surprisingly, Tang, which was developed independently by General Foods in 1957).

The lessons of 1969 are not lost on President Obama, who referred to the moon landing in a speech before the National Academy of Sciences in April. He was promoting an ambition less lofty than Kennedy's but a good deal more pressing in terms of humanity's future—replacing fossil fuels with cleaner sources of energy, what Obama called "this generation's great project."

As Obama acknowledged, this time around there is no Sputnik moment to rally political and popular support. Instead, there are computer-generated climate models of questionable reliability, glacier studies in far-flung places, killer heat waves on the other side of the world in Australia, alarming charts on the increase in average global temperatures to date and other evidence of interest to eggheads. It's convincing stuff to those open to new ideas, but it hardly focuses the mind like the threat of a Soviet ICBM targeted at downtown Los Angeles.

It's worth remembering that the space race brought with it a renaissance in American education and scientific research that paid dividends above and beyond the propaganda value of beating the Soviets to the moon or the spiritual value of witnessing the smallness and fragility of Earth as seen from another world. For all the grumbling over the economic costs of fighting climate change, it will have similar benefits, not the least of which will be leaving a planet for our children that's as green as the one we inherited from our parents.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



The few, the proud, the parents

After we celebrated the Fourth of July with a family barbecue, my 18-year-old son, Sam, shipped out for Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego. The idea of having a son in the military still seems strange, but I'm starting to get used to it.

When Sam announced his decision, it seemed mystifying that my not-terribly-athletic, bookish son would decide that what he wanted most of all was to be a Marine.

My friends were shocked and offered plenty of advice—he should see a psychologist; he should consider the Navy; did I realize how underhanded the recruiters could be?

But Sam never had an easy time at school, and he wasn't interested in college, at least straight out of high school. He wanted to be a Marine, period. Since he was a toddler, he's been fiercely stubborn, a child who did exactly what he wanted without much interest in the approval of teachers or parents.

For years, he read up on World War II and the Vietnam War and devoured war novels and fighter plane encyclopedias, though he had little use for history classes at school. It didn't occur to me what his hobby might lead to. We didn't know a single person who served in any branch of the military, other than the grandfathers who fought in World War II.

In some circles, Sam's decision might have seemed practical, even heroic. But in our liberal, antiwar sphere, his desire to enlist was met with shock—even hostility. I wasn't really surprised at our friends' reactions—after all, Sam's dad and I were initially opposed. We talked to him over and over about the risks he would face, the unyielding obedience he would need to summon. We spent the last year trying to inject some reality into his somewhat idealized vision of the military, but true to form, his mind would not be changed.

As the parent of a high-schooler, I had to answer the same question at every social event or Trader Joe's encounter: "What is your son doing about college?" That was a hard question, because though I didn't agree with him, it was still his choice, one he felt strongly about.

Often the reaction was pity or even anger. A friend with anarchist leanings pleaded with me to get him counseling. One mother stated firmly that she felt her job as a parent was to raise her daughter so that there would be no chance she would ever join the military. A few people warned that even though he had selected a noncombat job category, the Marines might still require him to face combat. Was that supposed to make me feel better? Because it didn't.

Once I got over my initial reticence and started talking to other parents about his choice, I found out that Sam wasn't the only kid we knew who was interested in the military. One boy had nearly joined up but was derailed when he got a mononucleosis-like illness. A colleague's nephew—a British citizen—was accepted into the Marines. Another friend's son decided to become an Army medic even though he was nearly finished with college.

My son passed his high school equivalency exam last summer

By PAT SAPERSTEIN

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Pat Saperstein is a senior editor at Variety and editor of the blog EatingLA.com.



and signed his enlistment papers in the fall, with the understanding that he would be inducted after completing a year of community college. The decision seemed to agree with him. After years of never really getting with the program, years of endless struggles over toothbrushing and homework, he changed in the months after enlisting.

The bedroom that had been the typical teen vortex of dirty plates glued to gaming magazines was suddenly organized and vacuumed. For the first time ever, homework was getting done and chores accomplished, at least some of the time. Despite weekly karate classes, he had started the year with the typical gamer's pudge. Now he woke early on Saturdays for physical training with the recruiter. He watched his diet, joined the Y and got the highest score in his bodybuilding class.

It seemed as though he was ready for basic training, but we were still worried about what would come after.

Sam selected aircraft information systems as his job (which, thankfully, involves an entire year of training in mellow Athens, Ga.), and he says if the Marines need him to go into combat, he'll do what is asked of him. Of course I'm worried about Afghanistan, tanks, injuries, psychological scars—but worrying hardly seems productive.

So he'll be an unconventional Marine—full of historical facts but short on street smarts, a noncombatant in a branch known for its combat prowess, a kid from a liberal family who's going to really miss Los Angeles' taco trucks when he gets to the Marine mess hall.

It wasn't until I started chatting online with a childhood friend just a week before Sam's ship date that I started to make peace with my son's decision to face war. My friend's 20-year-old son recently decided to emigrate to Israel, where he will be required to serve in the Israeli army. "College is a joke if you're not into it," my friend wrote. "Just an expensive waystation for bored kids."

"It's the first lesson in learning to release them," he typed. "To let them do what they feel passionate about."

And then: "Entering the military and serving your country is a lost art among us privileged Angelenos."

I closed the little message box on the computer feeling a little less guilty that I should have done more to stop Sam and maybe even a little proud of my son for being willing to try something that is completely foreign to us privileged Angelenos.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sham marriage

William McCue of Wellington, FL. writes:

To Mr. Jaime Vergara: I just read “A mission of mercy” and I am now fully convinced you are on some type of drugs.

Hm-m-m. I wonder how you knew that? We do have fresh breeze that comes through our 5-by-12 mile island every hour, on the hour. That’s enough to get me high.

Your letters week after week are filled with flowery words which you use it appears to make yourself sound important.

You really think so? It must be because I am a child of the universe, one unrepeatable gift of life into human history, awesome and mysterious. Couldn’t be more important than that, could we? BTW, you are, too. Important, that is

You jump from one strange idea to another but say very little, and when you do have an idea which the reader can follow you show your lack of being grounded in reality.

Ouch! Someone finally found me out!

A frail old man meets a Chinese girl on the Internet.

Not quite. He was introduced by a relative who is married to a Chinese nurse in New York. The Internet was the means by which they conducted long distance chats.

She is actively trying to get a USA citizen to marry her so she can come to the USA.

Yes. Like 90 percent of the world’s population who wants to go under the Golden Bridge or watch the tall lady by the NY harbor. But she actually married him properly with all the Chinese celebrative trimmings.

He speaks no Chinese, she no English.

She actually speaks passable English. She worked professionally in the Middle East for four years prior to their meeting. He doesn’t speak Chinese, but being Brooklyn-bred, he is cosmopolitan enough.

They’ve met ONCE, for a week, and then they get married.

They were corresponding for three months before he went to

China. At the time, he was very healthy. And yes, they were married after a week. He returned to New York after a month and petitioned his bride; went back to China 10 months later, only to get sick again

Now you enter the picture by trying to convince the consulate that she should be allowed to come to the USA because she is married to the citizen?

I entered the picture because I became her English teacher at a local college on Saipan where she was to meet her husband from New York after the petition was denied. He had difficulty getting on the plane since he misplaced his passport. I suspected poor health.

How much clearer can it be that this is a sham marriage?

I thought so myself so when I had other reasons to go to New York, I checked the husband’s state of health and current condition. He was healthy enough to travel, but would not received on Saipan the health care he was receiving in NYC. He desperately wanted to see his wife get to the U.S. of A.

Would the Chinese girl have to say she it trying scam the system? She has!

There are many reasons why people marry. If this party married so that she can come to the United States, and he made two trips to China to make that happen, how is that a scam? But for my benefit, I went to Shenyang where the lady is from and visited her family. From the home decor and other evidences, it was clear that the union was not flighty. In fact, the whole neighborhood knew that mother and son went to interview in Guangzhou to be immigrants, and were not expected to return thinking they would proceed to NYC.

BTW, Mr. McCue, are you married? Do you have anything against citizens marrying people of other nationalities?

Then you start a paragraph with “A matter of right”? You think she has a right? To what?

I visited the Consulate in Shenyang, and exchanged e-mail with the Consul General, and yes, it is within her right to go visit her ailing husband. She just did not have the documents from the husband, a) inviting her over, b) certifying that he can not travel for

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section

health reasons (from health provider or hospital). Party will have the papers before the 23rd of July and she will be interviewed by the consular office again.

Put the pipe and pen down and pull your head out of the clouds.

I am an accidental writer and do not consider this my profession. I should spend more time watching our lagoon sunset and enjoying the afternoon breeze. But there seems to be a handful of readers who find my drift stimulating. Being Oriental, I go by the notion that “the truth cannot be proved, it can only be hinted at,” so when readers give me feedback, I also ask them to go beyond what I literally said, to what they existentially read. Some people actually comment on what I write, or at least, are fascinated by what thoughts they come to after perusing my piece.

BTW, I gave up cherry-flavored pipes long time ago, but I still have three habanas of monte cristos in my refrigerator, and sometimes, when the occasion warrants it, I puff it with a Domecq.

Your lights are on but no one’s home.

Actually, am home and pretty grounded in the local scene. If you Google how we treated the Chinese in our former garment industry, you might not be so cavalier in your attitude.

I’m quite surprised your letters are printed at all.

We might not have enough letter writers, but if my piece can get you to write a letter, that is what a global community is for—promote conversations. The editor, I’m sure, is not unhappy!

Take care, William!

Time to boldly go once more

On the spring morning in 1927 when Charles Lindbergh set off alone across the Atlantic Ocean, only a handful of explorer-adventurers were capable of even attempting the feat. Many had tried before Lindbergh’s successful flight, but all had failed and many lost their lives in the process. Most people then thought transatlantic travel was an impossible dream. But 40 years later, 20,000 people a day were safely flying the same route that the “Lone Eagle” had voyaged. Transatlantic flight had become routine.

Forty years ago this week, Neil Armstrong, Mike Collins and I began our quarter-million-mile journey through the blackness of space to reach the moon.

Neil and I walked its dusty ancient soil, becoming the first humans to stand upon another world. Yet today, no nation—including our own—is capable of sending anyone beyond Earth’s orbit, much less deeper into space.

For the past four years, NASA has been on a path to resume lunar exploration with people, duplicating (in a more complicated fashion) what Neil, Mike and our colleagues did four decades ago. But this approach—called the “Vision for Space Exploration”—is not visionary; nor will it ultimately be successful in restoring American space leadership. Like its Apollo predecessor, this plan will prove to be a dead end littered with broken spacecraft, broken dreams and broken policies.

Instead, I propose a new Unified Space Vision, a plan to ensure American space leadership for the 21st century. It wouldn’t require building new rockets from scratch, as current plans do, and it would make maximum use of the capabilities we have without breaking the bank. It is a reasonable and affordable plan—if we again think in visionary terms.

On television and in movies, “Star Trek” showed what could be achieved when we dared to “boldly go where no man has gone before.” In real life, I’ve traveled that path, and I know that with the right goal and support from most Americans, we can boldly go, again.

A race to the moon is a dead end. While the lunar surface can be used to develop advanced technologies, it is a poor location for homesteading. The moon is a lifeless, barren world, its stark desolation matched by its hostility to all living things. And replaying the glory days of Apollo will not advance the cause of American space leadership or inspire the support and enthusiasm of the public and the next generation of space explorers.

Now, I am not suggesting that America abandon the moon entirely, only that it forgo a moon-focused race. As the moon should be for all mankind, we should return there as part of an internationally led coalition. Using the landers and heavy-lift boosters developed by our partners, we could test on the moon the tools and equipment that we will need for our ultimate destination: homesteading Mars by way of its moons.

Let the lunar surface be the ultimate global commons while we focus on more distant and sustainable goals to revitalize our space program. Our next generation must think boldly in terms of a goal for the space program: Mars for America’s future. I am not suggesting a few visits to plant flags and do photo ops but a journey to make the first homestead in space: an American colony on a new world.

Robotic exploration of Mars has yielded tantalizing clues about what was once a water-soaked planet. Deep beneath the soils of Mars may lie trapped frozen water, possibly with traces of still-extant primitive life forms. Climate change on a vast scale has reshaped Mars. With Earth in the throes of its own climate evolution,

By **BUZZ ALDRIN**
Special to The Washington Post



The writer was the second man to walk on the moon. He served as the Gemini 12 mission pilot in 1966, as well as the lunar module pilot on the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. His book Magnificent Desolation was published last month.

human outposts on Mars could be a virtual laboratory to study these vast planetary changes. And the best way to study Mars is with the two hands, eyes and ears of a geologist, first at a moon orbiting Mars and then on the Red Planet’s surface.

Mobilizing the space program to focus on a human colony on Mars while at the same time helping our international partners explore the moon on their own would galvanize public support for space exploration and provide a cause to inspire America’s young students. Mars exploration would renew our space industry by opening up technology development to all players, not just the traditional big aerospace contractors. If we avoided the pitfall of aiming solely for the moon, we could be on Mars by the 60th anniversary year of our Apollo 11 flight.

Much has been said recently about the Vision for Space Exploration and the future of the international space station. As we all reflect upon our historic lunar journey and the future of the space program, I challenge America’s leaders to think boldly and look beyond the moon. Yes, my vision of “Mars for America” requires bold thinking. But as my friend and Gemini crewmate Jim Lovell has noted, our Apollo days were a time when we did bold things in space to achieve leadership. It is time we were bold again in space.

Letter to the Editor

Historic day

Today marks an historical day for our Washington Delegate and the people of the Commonwealth. I find it appalling that Gov. Benigno Fitial, Senate President Pete Reyes, and House Speaker Arnold Palacios would claim credit for something they never thought of decades ago.

The submerged lands issue was one of the priorities Rep. Gregorio Kili Sablan had in his platform before he became the first congressional delegate to Washington D.C. I say give credit where it’s due and commend Congressman Kili Sablan for carrying and delivering his promise to our people. It must be noted that Congressman Kili Sablan has made tremendous achievements in such a short time of being in office as our delegate and obviously he has gained the trust and respect of congressional members,

something our leaders who have been in office for over two decades had failed to achieve due to arrogance and confrontational approaches with the U.S. Congress in the past.

One important issue that has been long been forgotten by our leaders is the fact the we are in political union with the United States and that any negotiations or changes in policy affecting the people of the Commonwealth must be addressed diplomatically and professionally to achieve positive results.

It is our hope that our Washington delegate continues his gracious and humble efforts in maintaining our political relationship with the United States so that one day we the people of the Commonwealth can finally achieve a higher standard of living as

intended in our Covenant.

Our sincerest appreciation to the members of U.S. Congress who recognized the importance of our culture and traditional way of life for the CNMI. Special thanks to the Honorable Congresswoman of Guam, Ms. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, and the many individuals and staff that made this historic day a success.






The most important victory achieved with this submerged lands issue is the diplomatic relationship and communication now established between our Commonwealth and U.S. Congress.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light southeast winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼79

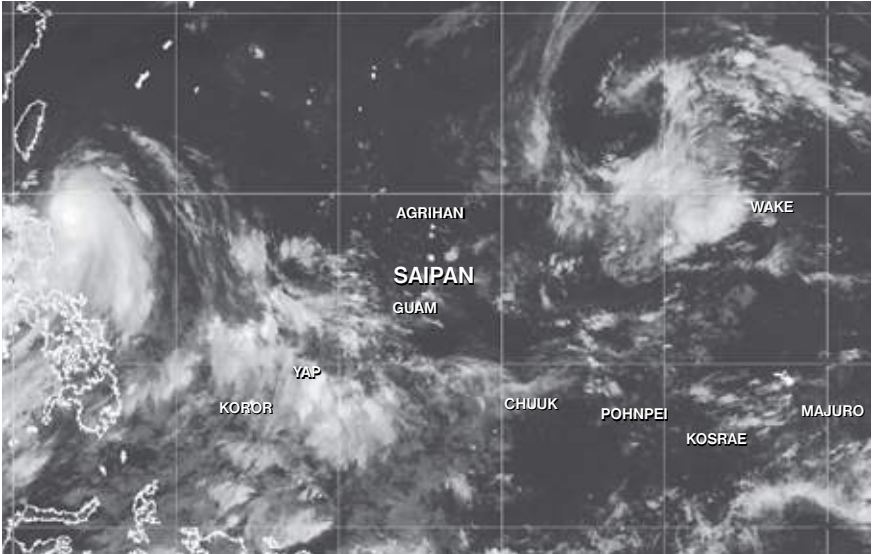
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲55 ▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲93 ▼73
Hong Kong	Showers	▲93 ▼84
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲84 ▼77
London	Showers	▲72 ▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲86 ▼66
Manila	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲94 ▼81
New York	Showers	▲79 ▼66
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼71
Paris	Showers	▲70 ▼54
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲82 ▼75
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼58
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼55
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74 ▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲75 ▼68
Tokyo	Showers	▲84 ▼74
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼67

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:25 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:15 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:42 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:00 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough stretches southwestward from an upper low centered northwest of Wake Island at 24N158E to 14N150E then turns northwestward through just north of Saipan at 16N146E to beyond 25N at 135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along the trough axis from northwest of Wake Island to east of the Marianas or within 125 miles of a line from 25N163E to 18N162E to 16N150E. Widely scattered showers are seen farther west along the trough axis over the Marianas between 13N and 19N from 135E to 150E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from the northern Philippines to 15N130E then through a weak circulation centered west of Chuuk near 8N145E to end at EQ148E. Converging west winds southwest of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau, Yap and well south of Guam or south of a line from 13N132E to 8N144E to 1N150E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers from southeast of Wake Island and southwestward to Kwajalein within 150 miles of a line from 17N172E to 11N171E to 8N162E. Similar conditions also exist south of Kosrae and Majuro between the equator and 4N from 164E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:27 AM	2:53 PM
Sunday	2:24 AM	3:58 PM
Monday	3:27 AM	5:03 PM
Tuesday	4:35 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	5:43 AM	7:00 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	GUAM-ROTA (ROP) C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 12:0pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 12:0pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 3, 4, 6	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO) NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA-SAIPAN C0894/9604 10:00am 5:50pm 6 via GUM OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services								
CATHOLIC								
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm								
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm								
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm								
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am								
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm								
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm								
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm								
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm								
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm								
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am								
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm								
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism								
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am								
PROTESTANT								
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm								
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm								
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm								
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm								
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions								
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm								
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)								
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto								
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)								
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)								
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday								
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm								
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)								
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm								
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm								
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620								
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm								
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)								
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm								
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm								
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm								
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Afetna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Wednesday 7pm worship Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.			9am	Sunday school	10am	Regular worship	6pm	worship
9am	Sunday school							
10am	Regular worship							
6pm	worship							
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism								
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 a.m-6:30 a.m Morning prayer <table><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr></table> Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			7am-9am	English service	7am-9am	Sunday school	10am-12noon	English service,
7am-9am	English service							
7am-9am	Sunday school							
10am-12noon	English service,							
Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S								

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 18, 2000

Gov't debts to Fund balloon to \$43 million
Hopes by the NMI Retirement Fund to recover over \$43 million owed by the government in unpaid contributions and other debts continue to dim as the House Ways and Means Committee has yet to commit on how to meet the mounting financial obligations. Committee chair Rep. Antonio M. Camacho said a decision will have to come at the end of a series of budget hearings being conducted by lawmakers on the FY 2001 spending proposal from the governor. Settlement of at least a portion of the huge government debt to NMIRF “is on top of the list of concerns by the committee, but the outcome of the budget meetings will dictate what actions we can take,” he told reporters.

USDA agrees to guarantee home loans
Good news for local families who want to have a home of their own. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development office has agreed to guarantee home loans availed by low- or moderate-income families living on Saipan through the local branch of Bank of Hawaii. Steven R. Chapman, acting state director of the federal agency for Hawaii and the Western Pacific Region, broke the good news to Rep. William S. Torres who visited the office in Hilo last month in an effort to bring the program to the CNMI. He said USDA has authorized the Bank of Hawaii to initially process guarantees totaling \$1 million, but added the loans will only be made available for properties located on Saipan “in keeping with” the bank’s guidelines.

July 18, 2001
NAP fears budget shortfall
Projected funding deficit for FY 2001 threatens the monthly allotment of over 150 food stamp recipients due to the reported increase in the total number of program participants. The Division of Nutrition Assistance Program disclosed that the number of eligible food stamp recipients has been increasing by an average of one percent each month. To date, more than 1,760 households or 5,539 individuals are receiving assistance from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. This represents an increase of five percent since October 2000. DCCA Executive Director Tomas Tebuteb disclosed yesterday that his office is exploring ways to address the increasing number of food stamp recipients, amid the program’s limited funding.

CUC races with time for better treatment facility
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is running against time to meet the deadline set for the construction of a better wastewater treatment facility. The US Environmental Protection Agency requires the utilities company to upgrade the Agingan facility within four years after it was allowed to operate the treatment plant through an administrative order dated November 1, 1999. Within this period, a condition in the permit required the Agingan facility “to meet the discharge limitations” that conform with EPA standards, said David Yamartino, CUC’s wastewater engineer.

July 18, 2002
Consumers to suffer from new taxes
The House of Representatives assured the passage this Friday of three new tax bills but businessmen warned that, besides adding to the cost of doing business, the additional burden would be shouldered mostly by consumers. This was the overall sentiment of businessmen toward the planned passage of three new tax bills, on whose fate the \$213 million Fiscal Year 2003 budget hinges. The bills are the Governor’s proposal for a 0.3-percent beautification tax that would generate funds for the operation of the new landfill; a 1.3-percent increase in the user fee tax; and an increase in the jackpot tax from 10 percent to 20 percent, to offset the net loss arising from the hike in the poker and pachinko license fees.

Former OES teacher gets 10 years for child abuse
Former Oleai Elementary School teacher Michael J. Dodd, who owned up to child molestation charges, was ordered to serve 10 years behind bars during a lengthy sentencing hearing yesterday. Dodd, during yesterday’s hearing, admitted and apologized for his wrongdoings. Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan meted Dodd with a two-year suspended imprisonment sentence on each of the five counts, coupled with \$5,000 in total fines. The prosecution, through Assistant Attorney General Kevin Lynch, was battling for a 20-year imprisonment term for the defendant, based on the plea agreement between the defense and the government.

Business

CIT is still fighting to stay out of Chapter 11

NEW YORK (AP)—CIT Group Inc. is continuing talks with potential lenders to secure billions in much-needed financing and stay out of bankruptcy court after the federal government declined to extend emergency aid to the troubled commercial lender.

CIT shares lost three-quarters of their value Thursday as bondholders made a last-ditch effort to prevent a Chapter 11 filing. CIT is trying to line up \$2 billion to \$4 billion in rescue financing from its debtholders within the next 24 hours, two sources familiar with the talks told The Associated Press. They requested anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak publicly.

But there is no guarantee bondholders will be able to save the ailing company, which teeters on the brink after rescue talks with regulators broke off late Wednesday after days of round-the-clock negotiations. The New York-based bank, one of the nation’s largest lenders to small and mid-sized businesses, faces \$7.4 billion in debt that’s due in the first quarter of next year.

CIT, which got \$2.3 billion of bailout money in December, had warned that depriving it of more federal aid could imperil about a million corporate borrowers—from Dunkin’ Donuts franchisees to retailer Dillards Inc. But the Obama administration turned down the company’s request, showing it’s drawing a line in the sand on federal rescues for troubled financial firms.

CIT bondholders discussed their options Thursday in a conference call that involved restructuring firm Houlihan Lokey, according to the sources. Another conference call with the largest bondholders was to be organized by bond manager Pimco, the sources said. Houlihan Lokey and Pimco didn’t return calls seeking comment.

If CIT can improve its liquidity, either through debt restructuring or by getting an injection of private equity, that could give it better leverage to reopen talks with regulators. The most likely avenue for survival would be getting permission to transfer assets to the company’s bank. The bank could then borrow against that money at a discount if the Fed allows it.

Such transfers require approval from the Fed and the FDIC because regulators don’t want banks—whose deposits are insured—to risk insolvency by bailing out their parent companies.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Jobless claims drop, but clouded by auto shutdowns
WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of newly laid-off Americans signing up for unemployment benefits last week, and those using this safety net over a longer period, both plunged. But the government figures released Thursday were clouded by difficulties adjusting for temporary shutdowns at auto plants. Even if the recession ends this year as the Federal Reserve and many private economists expect, companies are expected to keep trimming payrolls. The unemployment rate will climb because companies won’t be in any mood to hire until they feel certain a recovery is firmly rooted. The Labor Department said new applications for unemployment insurance dropped by a seasonally adjusted 47,000 to 522,000, the lowest level since early January. Economists polled by Thomson Reuters expected claims to rise to around 575,000.

Google’s slowing ad sales trump record 2Q profit
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. made more money than ever in the second quarter,

even though its revenue growth slowed like never before. The latter part of that paradox bothered investors, causing Google shares to fall \$14.62, or 3.3 percent, to \$427.98 in extended trading Thursday after the second-quarter results were released. The market’s negative reaction largely reflected the high expectations surrounding Google. Since falling below \$300 in early March, its stock price had surged by about 50 percent, reflecting Wall Street’s faith in the company’s ability to sell more online ads even as the United States slogs through its worst recession since World War II.

IBM sees better profits for 2009
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—IBM Corp. has proved a rare animal in the recession. Like everyone else, its sales have been hurt. Profit margins, though, have only gotten better and better, and on Thursday IBM ramped up its full-year earnings forecast. It was a rare sign of confidence for a major corporation these days, but says more about IBM’s execution than overall corporate technology spending. Big companies are still largely in lockdown mode.

Nation

Obama: Civil rights leaders paved way for him

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama on Thursday traced his historic rise to power to the vigor and valor of black civil rights leaders, telling the NAACP that their sacrifice “began the journey that has led e here.” The nation’s first black president bluntly warned, though, that racial barriers persist.

“Make no mistake: The pain of discrimination is still felt in America,” the president said in honoring the organization’s 100th convention.

Rousing up his audience, Obama offered his most direct speech on race since winning the White House, a mix of personal reflection and policy promotion. He worked on it for about two weeks and revised it until shortly before he spoke, his aides said, underscoring the importance of his message and his audience.

Implicit in his appearance: He is seeking the backing of the powerful NAACP and its members for his ambitious domestic agenda.

Painting himself as the beneficiary of the NAACP’s work, Obama cited historical figures from W.E.B. DuBois to Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King Jr. to Emmett Till, to explain how the path to the presidency was cleared by visionaries.

Despite the racial progress exemplified by his own election, Obama said African-Americans

must overcome a disproportionate share of struggles, including being more likely to suffer from many diseases and having a higher proportion of children end up in jail.

“These are some of the barriers of our time,” Obama said.

“They’re very different from the barriers faced by earlier generations. They’re very different from the ones faced when fire hoses and dogs were being turned on young marchers,” Obama said. “But what’s required to overcome today’s barriers is the same as

what was needed then. The same commitment. The same sense of urgency.”

Obama’s remarks, steeped in his personal biography as the son of a white mother from Kansas and black father from Kenya, challenged the audience— those

in the room and those beyond—to take greater responsibility for their own future.

He told parents to take a more active role, students to aspire beyond basketball stars and rappers, and residents to pay better attention to their schools.

Throughout his comments, Obama sought a balance, contending that the government

must foster equality but individuals must take charge of their own lives.

The key to success, Obama said, is improving education for all. Citing school segregation and the fight that was waged both on school steps and in courthouses, he said the condition of schools is an American problem, not an African-American one.



President Barack Obama walks off stage following a rally for New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, Thursday, July 16, 2009, in Holmdel, N.J.

Sotomayor on her way; GOP pledges quick court vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sonia Sotomayor sped toward confirmation as the nation’s first Hispanic justice Thursday, encouraged by Republican promises of a quick vote and cheered on by a Democratic senator’s challenge to take on the Supreme Court’s conservative wing when she arrives.

“Battle out the ideas that you believe in, because I have a strong hunch that they are closer to the ones that I would like to see adopted by the court,” Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, a Republican turned Democrat,

told Sotomayor.

Even two of her Republican critics called the 55-year-old appeals court judge’s rulings “mainstream”—noteworthy concessions for President Barack Obama’s first high court nominee.

If confirmed, Sotomayor would become the first justice appointed by a Democratic president in 15 years, and the hearings were as much a prelude for future Supreme Court fights as a battle over the judge herself. Republicans repeatedly criticized Obama’s past assertion that he

wanted a justice with “the quality of empathy,” and Sotomayor disavowed Obama’s statement as a senator that some decisions would be determined by “what is in a judge’s heart.”

Republicans, expressing concern that she would bring bias to the court, gave Frank Ricci, a white New Haven, Conn., firefighter whose reverse discrimination claim was rejected by Sotomayor and two other appeals court judges, a speaking role at the hearing. He complained that the ruling showed a belief “that citizens should be

reduced to racial statistics,” but declined when given the chance to say Sotomayor’s nomination should be rejected.

Firefighter says Sotomayor’s ruling divides people

WASHINGTON (AP)—Frank Ricci, the white firefighter who recently won his reverse discrimination case at the Supreme Court, said Thursday that an unfavorable ruling by Sonia Sotomayor and other judges “divides people who don’t wish to be divided along racial lines.” Ricci and his firefighting colleague from New Haven, Conn., Lt. Ben Vargas, denounced the appeals court ruling by Sotomayor and two other judges on the federal appeals court in New York. But in testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, neither man voiced opposition to Sotomayor’s confirmation as a Supreme Court justice.

Vargas, in fact, identified himself as Hispanic and congratulated the 55-year-old judge who would be the high court’s first Hispanic.

Ricci, Vargas and other firefighters sued New Haven after the city threw out the results of a

promotion exam for lieutenants and captains after too few minorities did well.

A trial judge dismissed the lawsuit, a decision upheld by Sotomayor’s appellate panel in a one-paragraph opinion that has been criticized as much for its brevity as the result.

Late last month, the Supreme Court found in favor of the complaining firefighters in a 5-4 ruling that reversed the appeals court. Given the topic—race discrimination—Sotomayor’s nomination and the timing, the decision has become a focus of her confirmation hearing.

Sotomayor testified repeatedly that she was bound by earlier rulings to reach the conclusion she did. Her appeals court colleague and one-time mentor, Jose Cabranes, issued an unusual opinion after Sotomayor’s panel decision disagreeing with her.

ACROSS THE NATION

5 officers hurt, 2 suspects dead in NJ shootout

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—A running gunfight that erupted during a police stakeout of two armed robbery suspects ended Thursday morning with two suspects dead and five officers shot, two of them critically. The shootout began in the street about 5 a.m. and ended when SWAT officers fought their way into an apartment where the man and woman had taken cover at about 6:45 a.m. The officers were met by shotgun blasts that ripped through the apartment building’s walls and doors. Residents of the complex said they awoke to the sounds of gunfire and police running down their halls.

NASA lost moon footage, but Hollywood restores it

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA could put a man on the moon but didn’t have the sense to keep the original video of the live TV transmission. In an embarrassing acknowledgment, the space agency said Thursday that it must have erased the Apollo 11 moon footage years ago so that it could reuse the videotape. But now Hollywood is coming to the rescue. The studio wizards who restored “Casablanca” are digitally sharpening and cleaning up the ghostly, grainy footage of the moon landing, making it even better than what TV viewers saw on July 20, 1969. They are doing it by working from four copies that NASA scrounged from around the world.

LA man arrested in wife’s high-seas death

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A Los Angeles man was arrested Thursday for allegedly murdering his wife three days into a five-day cruise to Mexico, turning the luxury oceanliner into a crime scene as it sailed through the waters of the Pacific Ocean. Robert McGill was taken into custody from the Carnival Elation cruise ship more than six hours after it returned to San Diego on Thursday. He will be charged with the murder of his wife, Shirley, who was found dead in the couple’s cabin on Tuesday evening, said Keith Slotter, special agent in charge of the FBI’s San Diego bureau. Slotter said a passenger contacted ship’s security Tuesday and expressed concern that Shirley McGill might be dead.

3 states investigating hep C infected scrub tech

DENVER (AP)—Thousands more patients may have been exposed to hepatitis C by an infected Colorado surgery tech who allegedly swapped needles, as the investigation spreads to New York and Texas. Kristen Diane Parker, 26, is accused of taking syringes meant for patients off operating room carts and replacing them with used syringes filled with saline solution at medical centers in Denver and Colorado Springs. The syringes she allegedly stole were filled with fentanyl, a narcotic painkiller 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

Asia

Blasts at Jakarta Ritz, Marriott kill 9, wound 50



Police officers inspect the damage at J.W. Marriott hotel after a bomb went off in Jakarta, Indonesia, Friday, July 17, 2009.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Bombs minutes apart ripped through two luxury hotels in Jakarta Friday, killing nine and wounding at least 50 more, ending a four-year lull in terror attacks in the world's most populous Muslim nation. At least 14 foreigners were among the dead

and wounded.

The blasts at the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels, located side-by-side in an upscale business district in the capital, blew out windows and scattered debris and glass across the street, kicking up a thick plume of smoke. Facades

of both hotels were reduced to twisted metal.

Alex Asmasubrata, who was jogging nearby, said he walked into the Marriott before emergency services arrived and "there were bodies on the ground, one of them had no stomach," he said. "It was terrible."

Taliban threaten to kill captured US soldier

KABUL (AP)—Local Taliban commanders threatened Thursday to kill a captured American soldier unless the U.S. military stops operations in two districts of southeastern Afghanistan.

Also Thursday, Canadian authorities announced that a Canadian soldier was killed southwest of Kandahar, bringing to 47 the number of international troops killed in

Afghanistan this month. That makes July the deadliest month of the war for foreign troops—with nearly half the month to go.

The Taliban claimed last week to be holding the American soldier, whom the U.S. military earlier described as possibly being in enemy hands.

Abdullah Jalali, a spokesman for Taliban commander Mawlawi

Sangin, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday that the soldier was healthy.

He said the soldier would be killed unless the U.S. stops airstrikes in Ghazni province's Giro district and Paktika province's Khoshmand district. Jalali did not explain why the Taliban chose those areas, noting only that Giro has been heavily bombed.

Opponents seek to deny Karzai first-round win

KABUL (AP)—Critics decry his government as corrupt and ineffectual, the economy is in the tank and the country is racked by an insurgency led by the very people he helped oust from power eight years ago.

Nevertheless, President Hamid Karzai is the odds-on favorite to finish first in Afghanistan's Aug. 20 presiden-

tial election. The best scenario for his opponents is that the 40 others in the race—including two women—can win enough votes to deny him a majority. That would force a runoff—in which Karzai would be vulnerable if the other hopefuls can rally around a single alternate candidate.

Whatever the outcome,

President Barack Obama hopes the election will allow the U.S. to "transition to a different phase" in the conflict, handing over more responsibility to Afghans and eventually withdrawing American troops. Obama has sent thousands of reinforcements to Afghanistan to help bolster security for the balloting.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan lifts ban on Sharif running for office

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's top court acquitted opposition leader Nawaz Sharif on Friday of hijacking charges stemming from the 1999 coup against his government, clearing the last obstacle to Sharif's running for office. Sharif was banned from office after being found guilty of hijacking Gen. Pervez Musharraf's plane in 1999. Sharif was prime minister at the time, while Musharraf was the head of Pakistan's army. Sharif has insisted the ban was politically motivated. In its ruling on Friday, the Supreme Court said there was no evidence to support the charge of hijacking and acquitted Sharif of the charges. Prosecutor Shahadat

Awan said the court's decision was unanimous.

Police say 10 climbers die on Japanese mountains

TOKYO (AP)—Ten climbers have died as strong winds and rain struck two mountains in northern Japan, police said Friday. Nine died while climbing Mount Tomuraushi on Hokkaido, Japan's main northern island, said Hokkaido police spokesman Masafumi Yamasaki. Eight of them were part of an 18-member group tour, while the other was climbing alone. A 10th person died on another mountain on Hokkaido, he said. The weather at the 2,141-meter (7,024-foot) Tomuraushi peak was bad Thursday with strong winds and rain,

according to Japan's Meteorological Agency. The temperature in the area was lower than usual.

China to issue arrest warrants for Xinjiang riots

URUMQI, China (AP)—Authorities have completed an initial investigation into ethnic riots that left 192 people dead in China's restive Western region and arrest warrants will be issued soon, the chief prosecutor for Xinjiang said. Chinese authorities also got more aggressive in blocking foreign media from working in the streets of Urumqi, the regional capital where the July 5 riots occurred. Authorities have been adamant that foreign photographers not shoot pictures of the thousands of security forces guarding the city.

World

Aide: Zelaya to set up government seat in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—A top aide of ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya said he was heading back to the country Thursday, while thousands of his supporters blocked roads to demand his return to power.

Patricia Rodas, foreign minister of Zelaya's toppled government, said the deposed president was "on his way" back, but refused to say how he planned to enter the country or when he expected to arrive. Zelaya's current whereabouts are unclear and Honduras' interim leaders have promised to arrest him if he returns.

"Our president will be in

Honduras at some point and a some moment. He is already on his way. God protect him and the people of the Americas who are with him," Rodas told reporters in La Paz, Bolivia.

It would be Zelaya's second attempt to return to Honduras since the military deposed him and flew him out of the country in a June 28 coup. The interim government thwarted his first attempt on July 5 by sending military vehicles to block the airport runway and keep his plane from landing.

Interim President Roberto Micheletti said Wednesday that there were reports that Zelaya

planned to enter over the Nicaraguan border Saturday.

If Zelaya secretly enters Honduras, it could complicate negotiations scheduled for Saturday in Costa Rica. Neither Zelaya or Micheletti are on a Costa Rican government list of people expected to attend the weekend negotiations.

Prospects for finding common ground appeared slim.

Micheletti, the former congressional leader who was sworn in to serve out the final months of Zelaya's term, offered Wednesday to step down but said that hinged on guarantees that Zelaya would not return to power.

Mexico sends more police, army after gang attacks

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico on Thursday ordered 5,500 federal police, soldiers and navy personnel to move into a gang-plagued western state following a cartel's slaying of 20 officers and troops in one of the boldest revenge attacks ever mounted against the government.

Amid the violence, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton indicated Thursday that the United States is committed to the Merida Initiative, a \$1.4 billion funding package aimed at helping Mexico train and equip its anti-drug efforts.

Mexico is facing a huge chal-

lenge, and late Thursday Interior Secretary Fernando Gomez Mont said the government was pouring 1,500 federal police officers, 2,500 soldiers and 1,500 navy personnel into Michoacan state, the home base for the violent La Familia cartel.

The force, which will bolster several hundred federal security officers already in Michoacan, will be backed by at least three Black Hawk helicopters and three armored vehicles.

Last weekend's attacks by La Familia drug cartel were a blatant challenge to President Felipe Calderon, who has de-

ployed about 45,000 soldiers and tens of thousands of federal police across the country in an attempt to halt the escalating drug trade.

Such measures have raised the concerns of human rights organizations, which have alleged cases of abuse by authorities.

Asked whether that could hurt future U.S. aid to Mexico's drug-fighting efforts, Clinton replied, "What we see here is an administration under President Calderon locked in a very difficult battle with the most ruthless drug traffickers and criminal cartels anywhere on the planet."

Mourners weep for slain Russian rights activist

GROZNY, Russia (AP)—Weeping mourners escorted the body of Natalya Estemirova through Chechnya's capital on Thursday, honoring the activist whose brazen kidnapping and execution-style killing shocked Russia's beleaguered human rights community and prompted international outrage.

In Moscow, Russia's leading rights advocates blamed Chechnya's Kremlin-backed

president for the killing and said Prime Minister Vladimir Putin shared responsibility for the slaying and for the lawlessness plaguing the North Caucasus.

"They have killed our soul," said Oleg Orlov, head of the Memorial rights group that Estemirova worked for.

Estemirova's gunshot body was found Wednesday afternoon, hours after she was kid-

napped by four men not far from her home in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

The killing, which activists quickly blamed on Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, underscored the persistent crime and violence in the regions surrounding Chechnya. Rights groups said it also showed that Russia remains a place where political murders are committed with impunity.

WORLD BRIEFS

Fight for swine flu vaccine could get ugly

LONDON (AP)—An ugly scramble is brewing over the swine flu vaccine—and when it becomes available, Britain, the United States and other nations could find that the contracts they signed with pharmaceutical companies are easily broken. Experts warn that during a global epidemic, which the world is in now, governments may be under tremendous pressure to protect their own citizens first before allowing companies to ship doses of vaccine out of the country. That does not bode well for many nations, including the United States, which makes only 20 percent of the regular flu vaccines it uses, or Britain, where all of its flu vaccines are produced abroad.

Taylor says he allowed human skulls at roadblocks

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—In an unusual defense against war crimes charges, former Liberian President Charles Taylor told judges Thursday that he saw nothing wrong with displaying the skulls of slain enemy soldiers at roadblocks. Taylor, 61, insisted he was trying to bring peace and the rule of law to Liberia as he testified in his own defense on the third full day at his trial. He is charged with 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for allegedly supporting rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone who unleashed a campaign of terror in their country's 1991-2002 civil war. An estimated 500,000 people were the vic-

tims of killings, systematic mutilation or other atrocities in that war.

Iceland's parliament votes to join EU

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Iceland's parliament voted by a narrow margin Thursday to apply for membership in the European Union, moving to relinquish some of the recession-hit country's cherished independence in the name of stability. In a fiercely debated motion, members of Iceland's parliament, the Althingi, voted 33-28 to start membership talks with the EU. Two lawmakers abstained. Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir said the vote was a historic moment that "will have a great and beneficial impact on the future of this nation."

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, July 18, 2009

Numbers up on Pinoys abroad, unemployed, underemployed

Editor's Note: The following is an article prepared by the Institute for Migration and Development Issues in the Philippines.

Government feels relieved that amid the current tide of job displacements as a result of the ongoing global economic crisis, the recent round of the quarterly Labor Force Survey revealed a lower unemployment rate.

Yet the Philippines, a country with a ballooning labor force, still has a visible number of unemployed and underemployed in spite of rising overseas migration by Filipinos.

One wonders if overseas migration, regarded many times as a stop-gap measure to rising homeland unemployment, had mitigated the inability of the country to generate more jobs and decrease unemployment, a non-profit group's policy brief wrote.

"While the country, in 2008, had the lowest unemployment rate (6.8 percent) in the last 12 years, there are still a visible number of jobless Filipinos," the Institute for Migration and Development Issues states.

And even if the rate of underemployment (a condition where people work less than eight hours a day, or where people are self-employed) is going down lately, the actual number of underemployed is growing, the Institute's policy brief on overseas migration and domestic employment conditions states.

ON THE NET

Download IMDB policy brief at <http://depositfiles.com/files/3mzbcqpvd>

From 1997 to 2008, the country's employed labor force grew from 27.888 million to 34.533 million. The number of unemployed Filipinos, meanwhile, has been going up and down during the 12-year period even as there are about six million underemployed Filipinos as of 2008.

Over the same 12-year period, the combined total of temporary migrants (or overseas workers) and permanent migrants (those staying for good in another country) has risen—from 801,755 in 1997 to 1,447,623 in 2008.

The 1997 combined total of 801,755 Filipinos who went overseas makes up 33.73 percent of that year's total homeland unemployed (2.377 million). The 2008 combined total of 1,447,623, for its part, is now 57.33 percent of the 2008 total homeland unemployed.

The number of overseas Filipinos and the country's unemployed and underemployed are all increasing, writes the institute's policy brief (written by Dawn Naisa Majaducon). The situation reflects the reality in the Philippine labor market that the country cannot generate as many jobs for the growing number of workers here at home, the nonprofit added.

But the institute cautions government if it relies on sending more people abroad as the easy way out of fac-

ilitating job opportunities for citizens.

"While overseas migration will be a reaction for Filipinos to get out of employment-related problems here at home, relying too much on overseas migration will ultimately challenge stakeholders' efforts to improve domestic employment conditions," IMDI stated.

Apart from significant reductions in unemployment and underemploy-

ment, homeland employment-related conditions to watch out beside continued overseas migration include wages, labor productivity, supply of skilled labor at home, and poverty and inequality as contributory to the deterioration of the quality of jobs here in the country. (*Institute for Migration and Development Issues*)

IMDI's policy brief on overseas migration and domestic employment conditions can be downloaded in this link: <http://depositfiles.com/files/3mzbcqpvd>



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

COOKING CLASS

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's chef Hermie Coronejo shows how to create fried noodles during a pasta lesson in the ongoing culinary arts class sponsored by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Philippine Consulate General. Coronejo has been offering his volunteering service for this livelihood class for OFWs in the past seven years.

LABOR FRONT

Alien workers' requirements upon initial entry

By **FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Q: What should an alien worker expect at the airport upon his or her initial entry to the CNMI?

A: When an alien worker arrives at the Saipan International Airport for initial entry to the Commonwealth, he or she shall have for inspection by the local immigration authority a copy of his or her approved employment contract and a copy of a sworn affidavit required by Labor regulations.

According to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, if the affidavit was executed outside the CNMI, the worker shall attest under penalty of perjury that all information contained in the affidavit is true.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Q: What are the other requirements the alien worker needs to show during his or her initial entry to the Commonwealth?

A: The Regulations state that the arriving foreign national worker will be required to sign a standard form in the worker's native language with an English translation attached attesting to notice with respect to the description of the job in the employment contract. The form is also attesting to notice with respect to attendance at an orientation session, specifying any recruiting agreement, and acknowledging receipt of the telephone numbers and offices where assistance will be provided in case there are any problems locating the employer or the job.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Q: What will happen if the alien worker fails to show complete requirements upon his or her arrival at the airport?

A: If the alien worker fails to show complete requirements at the airport for any reason, he or she may be paroled into the Commonwealth for a specified period of time in which to correct deficiencies or he or she may be repatriated.

Every alien worker who enters the CNMI is required to attend the first Labor orientation session available after date of entry unless excused for illness or other unavoidable circumstance.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. Saipan Tribune will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to Saipan Tribune via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the Saipan Tribune's office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

'Bloggers can cover 2010 RP election'

By **ANNA VALMERO**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will invite bloggers to cover the 2010 elections, from the preparations up to the proclamation of winners, a spokesman for the poll body said Thursday.

The Comelec is formulating a "framework of cooperation" with the blogging community to cover key points in the elections such as voter education and field testing of counting machines, the commission's spokesman, James Jimenez said.

"We believe that bloggers represent a significant part of the general public to be informed about the most recent developments in elections automation," Jimenez, who is also a blogger, told INQUIRER.net.

Sports clubs offer helping hand to Pinoy lifeguard

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation and the Saipan Adventure Sports Club have launched a fundraising and job-hunting effort to save a long-time Filipino guest worker from losing his job as a lifeguard at the Kan Pacific swimming pool in Marpi.

Edgardo "Gary" De Guzman has been employed with the Marianas Resort and Spa as a lifeguard for the past 16 months. The resort operates the swimming pool.

He has assisted local competitive swimming teams with water safety training, taught guests to swim, and has participated in several competitive swimming events, including the Tagaman, Escape from Managaha, and numerous long distance races.

"We are assisting Gary with job hunting on island but given the hiring situation, we don't have a lot of hope.

So we are kindly asking for donations so that we can help Gary start up his own business once he returns to the Philippines," Suzy Kindel said in a message to NMIF colleagues.

Kindel said De Guzman wants to buy a "tricycle" in order to operate his own taxi service.

"Such a vehicle costs around US\$1,000. Plus there will be fees, licenses, operating and living expenses. Our goal is to raise at least \$1,000. To that end, Tsunami has already donated \$100 and SSC has promised to match that. Stan Good has generously donated \$200, which I am matching. So we currently have \$600," Kindel said.

Kindel urged people to consider De Guzman's plight, "returning to a country where jobs are hard to come by, the pay is horribly low, and he has a son to support."

She said De Guzman's employer had cut his time to 32 hours and

charges him for food and a room, which he shares with two other men.

"He couldn't afford a car because he had to send money home to support his son. If by some miracle Gary finds a job on island, we will put the donated money into a savings account for Gary for his return to the [Philippines] in a year or two," Kindel said.

De Guzman's contract will expire on Aug. 1.

Anyone willing to help may contact Kindel at suzykindel@yahoo.com.

"And no donation is ever too small. Every dollar is worth so much in the Philippines," she said.

Learning about this, NMIF's Russ Quinn said he is saddened that long-time residents of Saipan, who make a lot of contributions at great sacrifice, are being forced to leave.

He said De Guzman is a great guy who has always supported any event NMIF did in the pool.

Ex-president Ramos takes a swipe at Arroyo

By FE ZAMORA,
MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Former president Fidel V. Ramos Thursday told six aspirants to the presidency that being in power was not a permanent state.

"Going up to the summit is optional, but coming down is mandatory," Ramos said, quoting the first Filipino mountain climbers to scale Mount Everest. "You cannot stay at the top forever."

Ramos' remarks were applauded by the six aspirants and their audience, to whom they presented their planned six-year socioeconomic programs. The venue was the 10th Ramos Peace and De-

Ex-president: 'You can't stay at the top forever'

velopment Foundation public lecture series held at RCBC Plaza's Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium in Makati City.

"Bato-bato sa langit, ang tamaan huwag magalit," a laughing Ramos also said, mouthing the old Filipino adage about being a sport in the face of criticism.

It was an apparent swipe at President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, whose term ends in 2010 and, according to persistent reports, is preparing to seek a congressional seat representing a district in her native Pampanga province.

The six aspirants present were Senators Francis Escudero, Richard Gordon, Loren Legarda and Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Why Erap wasn't there

Ramos said Vice President Noli De Castro, and Senators Manny Villar and Panfilo Lacson had also been invited. De Castro and Villar declined; Lacson has announced that he would not be in the running in 2010.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada was not invited because he was not yet considered a contender when the invitations were sent out in March, Ramos also said.

The forum was attended by businessmen and executives of multinational companies and international organizations.

Among the government officials in attendance were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Ms Arroyo's adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio, who were once "Ramos boys."

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes also dropped in.

Young but mature

Ramos praised the six aspirants for the "clarity, intellect and substance of their presentation."

He said that compared to himself when he ran in 1992, "they are still very young [but] mature enough to assume the office of the presidency."

The six aspirants agreed that focusing government resources on modernizing agriculture and improving productivity was key to sustainable growth, with Legarda championing the protection of the environment and rural folk as part of long-term solutions.

Fernando proposed a stronger state through the faithful implementation of laws. Gordon urged the nation to revisit its history, learn from the past and start "caring" for the people.

Escudero laid down a six-point priority program to address poverty.

Roxas talked about an "activist government." Teodoro suggested that the government's economic infrastructure, health and education programs, as well as public investment in peace and security, be continued.

All six aspirants said they believed that "good governance" was at the center of economic and peace efforts.

Storm lashes N. Luzon, Metro Manila

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Tropical storm "Isang" (international codename: Molave) brought havoc to most parts of Luzon, including Metro Manila, on Friday, causing widespread flooding and forcing schools, offices and the country's stock exchange to close, officials said.

"Isang" will continue to bring rains as it continues to move in the west-northwest direction of the country late Friday morning, the state-run Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in its latest weather bulletin.

As of 10 a.m., "Isang" was spotted 100 kilometers east-northeast of Aparri, Cagayan and was moving at 15 kilometers per hour, Pagasa said.

"Isang" continues to move with maximum winds of 85 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 100 kilometers per hour.

Storm signal number 2 is still up in the provinces of Batanes, Cagayan, Babuyan Group, Calayan Group, Isabela, Kalinga, Apayao, Abra,



A student stands on the back of a bicycle as her father pedals on a flooded street Thursday, July 16, 2009 in suburban Malabon City, north of Manila, Philippines.

and Ilocos Norte.

Storm signal number 1 is up

in the provinces of Northern Aurora, Quirino, Nueva Vizca-

ya, Ifugao, Benguet, Mt. Province, Pangasinan, La Union, and Ilocos Sur.

Although no storm signal has been raised in Metro Manila, residents would continue to experience continuous rains as "Isang" enhances the southwest monsoon, bringing rains also in Central and Southern Luzon.

Residents living in low-lying and mountainous areas have been advised against possible flash floods and landslides, Pagasa said.

The heavy overnight rains forced all government offices to close and the suspension of elementary and high school classes in the capital and surrounding districts.

Parents and students said the announcement came late, as the students were already in school.

"Other areas should follow automatic suspension for typhoon signals where these are raised," said DepEd public information chief Kenneth Tirado.

Tirado said that in areas not under a typhoon signal but are experiencing stormy weather, local executives may exercise their discretion to suspend classes.

In Valenzuela City, Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian ordered the cancellation of afternoon

classes for elementary and high school students in all public and private schools at around 11 a.m. Thursday.

DepEd officials in Cagayan Valley suspended classes in elementary and high schools in Cagayan and Isabela Thursday afternoon as Isang passed through the region.

The Philippine Stock Ex-

change suspended operations mid-morning "due to lack of clearing facilities," as the central bank had curtailed its activities because of the weather.

The government urged private businesses to also close for the day.

Manila pedestrians were seen wading to work knee-deep in dirty brown water.

Soldier killed, 6 wounded in NPA ambush

MANILA, Philippines—A soldier died and six others were wounded when they were ambushed by suspected members of the New People's Army in Bukidnon province Thursday, a police official said on Friday.

Sergeant Sabihon of the 23rd Division Reconnaissance Company was leading his men in Sitio (sub-village) San Juan, La Fortuna village in Impasug-ong town to secure vital communication installations in the area when they were waylaid by an undetermined number of reb-

els at around 9:30 a.m., said Chief Superintendent Danilo Empedrad, Northern Mindanao police chief.

"They were on their way to relieve their companions who securing a vital installation in the area when the ambush occurred," he said.

The clash left Sabihon dead. His wounded men were identified as Corporal Jose Santos and civilian forces namely Jonathan Fabregas, Christopher Destinado, Marciano Behuc, Arnado Lesardo, and Junel Pahuga. (*INQUIRER.net*)

Arroyo trip to US a working visit—DFA

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A diplomatic source said Thursday it will be a working visit for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the United States at the end of the month on the invitation of US President Barack Obama.

As such, it will have the usual amenities extended to a visiting head of state, said the source who is privy to the visit but asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the matter.

These amenities include Secret Service protection from arrival to departure, hotel accommodations for members of the official party, traditional official lunch or dinner, and a one-on-one meeting with

the host president.

In an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the source said the US does not generally make an announcement of the category of a visit unless it is a state visit.

In a state visit, the inviting country shoulders all the expenses of the visiting head of state and official party and the US president hosts a state reception.

"Generally, a state visit to the US is reserved for visiting royalty, unlike here where we usually treat a visiting head of state to a state visit," said the source, pointing to the visit made by the Queen of England during the Bush administration.

"It is a matter of nomenclature. What's important is it is an

invitation by the hosting president," the source said.

The White House announced that a meeting between Obama and Ms Arroyo will take place on July 30.

In a statement, the White House said Ms Arroyo's visit will be the first by a Southeast Asian leader on the invitation of President Obama.

"The visit to Washington, D.C. is an affirmation of the strong partnership between the two countries that share historical and cultural ties and common democratic values," the statement said.

"As a strategic ally and friend of the Philippines, the US has extended assistance in support of both countries' shared goals

of peace, progress and prosperity," it added.

The US Embassy in Manila said Ms Arroyo's visit will not be a state visit.

"It's a meeting in the Oval Office. To our knowledge President Obama has not yet hosted any state visits. President Arroyo will be the first leader from Southeast Asia to visit the United States under the Obama administration," said embassy spokesperson Rebecca Thompson.

Asked to comment, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Ed Malaya described Ms Arroyo's trip as a "presidential visit."

"It is a presidential visit, a meeting between two heads of state upon the invitation of the hosting president," he said.

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2,000 cops to remain in Jolo—Puno

By JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno Thursday said the more than 2,000 police and civilian forces mobilized to cordon off the Abu Sayyaf group that kidnapped three Red Cross workers would remain on Jolo island as offensives against the bandit group intensified.

Puno said he would discuss with the civilian emergency forces (CEF) deployed on Jolo the possibility of employing them as a law enforcement group to assist the police in arresting Abu Sayyaf members.

"These are 2,000 individuals that have been mobilized. If we send them home now, we have to make sure that peace and order is secured," Puno said at a press conference.

"At the moment, we have no intention of pulling them out until there is a change in situation. So the order of the day is still law enforcement," he added.

Director General Jesus Verzosa of the Philippine National Police said the majority of CEFs were unregistered gun owners and they would have to avail them-

selves of the month-long gun amnesty that would be implemented in October.

Final general firearms amnesty

"We will tell them to register their firearms," Verzosa told reporters in a briefing on Executive Order No. 817, or the granting of a final general firearms amnesty issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Puno disclosed plans to meet with the PNP and Department of National

POEA suspends 2 recruitment firms

By KRISTINE L. ALAVE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has suspended two recruitment companies deploying workers to Libya after they were found guilty of contract substitution.

The POEA, in a statement, said Aquagem International and Sharikat Al Saedi International were suspended after 45 of their overseas Filipino worker clients complained of breach of contract.

"The POEA suspended two recruitment agencies following investigation

Defense to discuss stepped-up operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said that he had also ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to find out whether the release of Abu Sayyaf leader Albader Parad's two wives, who were arrested for alleged involvement in the kidnapping of the three Red Cross workers, was proper.

"I'm having the CIDG review the case and to see whether there was official basis to release them," he said.

indicating that the OFWs they deployed to Libya suffered contract substitution," said the department.

The Philippine government also placed the employers of the OFWs, Cifex World, under the POEA watchlist.

According to POEA investigation, the recruiters did not follow the POEA-verified contract signed by the OFWs in Manila.

When the workers arrived in Libya, representatives of the recruitment agencies forced the workers to sign another contract providing for a lower salary and different working conditions.

RESCUE DRILL

Manila Airport emergency teams spray with foam to an aircraft as they conduct a full-scale airport emergency exercise to test their skills in rescuing aircraft passengers incapacitated with hazardous chemicals Wednesday July 15, 2009 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila, Philippines. The drill is conducted every two years in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Suggested and Recommended Practices.

AP



PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Samar town mayor shot dead

TACLOBAN CITY—Mayor Carlos de la Cruz of Matuginao, Samar, was shot dead by three motorcycle-riding men just outside his residence in Catbalogan City on Thursday night. Supt. Ramil Ramirez, Catbalogan police chief, said in a telephone interview that the 46-year-old mayor was felled by bullets outside his home on Muñoz Street, Catbalogan City, past 7 p.m. Thursday. Ramirez said the mayor had two gunshot wounds in the chest and died at the Samar provincial hospital in Catbalogan. (*Inquirer Visayas*)

Philippine troops rescue 2 kidnapped fishermen

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—A police official says government forces have rescued two fishermen who were kidnapped four months earlier by al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines. Senior Superintendent Salik Macapantar said the two men were recovered by police and Philippine marines after clashing with Abu Sayyaf gunmen in Basilan

province's Akbar township. The gunmen escaped and there were no reports of casualties. Officials have reported that militants attacked a fishing boat early March, killing three fishermen and fleeing with the two hostages and their boat's engine and fishing equipment. The militants are still holding three teachers seized also in March. They freed Italian Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni Sunday after six months in captivity.

Judge rejects Filipino nurses' NY bias claims

GARDEN CITY, New York (AP)—A federal judge has rejected discrimination claims filed by 26 Filipino nurses in New York. The nurses said they were forced to quit their jobs at nursing homes in New York City and suburban Long Island. They said agreements made about working conditions before they left their homeland were not honored by their U.S. employers. An administrative law judge ruled June 30 that the resignations were not protected by federal immigration employment law. The nurses' immigration attorney said he was disap-

pointed the ruling was made without a hearing. He is considering an appeal. Ten of the nurses had faced misdemeanor charges for endangering sick patients by quitting their jobs at a nursing home in Suffolk County on Long Island, east of New York City.

Drug firms offer to cut prices by 60% but...

MANILA, Philippines—Some multinational drug companies have offered to cut the price of their medicines by 50 to 60 percent, according to the government's National Drug Program. But these medicines are not on the list of 21 essential drugs that the Department of Health (DoH) has recommended to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for a 50-percent price reduction, Dr. Robert So, NDP manager, said Thursday. The drug firms have started giving their proposals for a voluntary price reduction in keeping with their promise to the President. So said the NDP received 10 proposals Thursday and expected to get more in the coming days until the 10-day deadline on July 18. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Sulu Vice Gov. Nur-Ana Sahidulla disclosed earlier that Parad had asked for his wives in exchange for the freedom of Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni.

Vice gov to be probed

Sahidulla had also stated that she gave P50,000 "cigarette money" to Vagni's kidnappers out of goodwill.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro said he had requested the Department of Justice to investigate Sahidulla.

"It came from the mouth of the vice governor herself that she gave P50,000 in board and lodging or whatever you call it to the Abu Sayyaf. [She] is a public official and to aid and abet terrorists requires at least an explanation," Teodoro said.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

I had no cash advances in my credit card!

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I could not believe it but I fell victim to a fraud. Someone called me pretending to be an officer from my credit card company, and offered to upgrade my Gold card into a Platinum. I was so flattered I went along with all their instructions—from signing an authorization letter to disclosing my cash advance PIN to surrendering my cut-out card. Next thing I knew—nearly P200,000 in cash advances were made on my card—all of which were not mine. What do I do now? Must I pay for this?—Renee

Answer: It is unfortunate that such a thing has happened to you. Fraudsters have been playing this trick on people without thinking of the consequences of such an evil deed. Billions of dollars have been involved in credit card fraud worldwide.

The sad part is that, from the information you shared with us, you are liable to pay for those cash advances. There are two things a credit cardholder must never do: surrender the card, and divulge one's cash advance personal identification number (CA PIN) or telephone personal identification number (TPIN), not even to someone who claims to be an employee or officer of the credit card company.

This is because giving out your credit card and/or revealing your CA PIN/TPIN is tantamount to giving another person access to your credit account. That means he may be able to charge purchases to your account or, as in your case, take out cash advances using your card.

The first thing you must do is to report the fraud to the credit card company right away. This will allow them to block off the card so no more unauthorized purchases or cash advances will be made.

File a police report detailing everything that happened. Give the police the data they need: your credit card number and the dates when the fraudster called and made the unauthorized cash advances. Make sure you get a copy of the police report and give a copy to the credit card company.

If you have previously arranged to have your utility and other bills automatically charged to this credit card, make arrangements to pay these bills separately through another card or pay them yourself directly over the counter by cash or check. Consider your account "frozen" or closed until the investigation has been finished.

Here are steps you can do to make

sure this fraud does not happen again to you or to anyone you know:

1. Always know where your cards are and keep them in a safe place.
2. Don't give your account number or other credit card information over the phone unless you know the company and you made the call and the company is reputable. The credit card company will never call you to "verify" information such as your account number or other credit card information since they already have it.
3. Never lend out your card to anyone, or surrender your card to someone claiming to be an officer of your credit card company. When a credit card company issues a new card to an old cardholder, they will not ask for the old card to be surrendered.
4. Don't give out your TPIN and CA PIN to anyone, not even to someone claiming to be an officer of your credit card company. The credit card company will never ask you for your TPIN or CA PIN.
5. When you receive your new credit card, cut out the old one across the magnetic strip and dispose of the pieces properly.
6. Upon receipt of your new credit card, sign at the back immediately.
7. Record card numbers, expiration dates and phone numbers. Make sure you have this information kept separately from your credit cards. As soon as you realize your card has been lost, stolen, or compromised, call the hotline immediately.
8. Choose a TPIN and CA PIN that cannot be identified with you (example: birthday, house number, etcetera). Change your TPIN and CA PIN regularly.
9. Always check your credit card billing statement and call the credit card company when there is a discrepancy within 20 days from receipt of your billing statement. Keep your credit card slips on file.
10. Make sure that when you transfer residence or change offices, you call the credit card company immediately to update your contact information.

With fraud on the rise, we must all be vigilant and extra careful.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

He drinks hard, works harder

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Baron Geisler is irked that he's always put in a bad light even when he's trying his best to do his work well.

Rumors circulated that he got into a brawl with co-star Aljur Abrenica during their shoot in Bohol for "Nandito Ako," and that he had a parrot fried for pulutan because he was drunk again.

"Nakaka-frustrate na lahat na lang nang gawin ko, nilalagyan nila ng alcohol na angle," says Baron. "I don't deny I love to drink but I love my work more. I don't drink on the set. Besides, Direk Maryo J doesn't allow it. Na-carried away lang kami ni Aljur sa fight scene but okay na kami ... It's not true na nagpaluto ako ng parrot. It was a parrot fish and a lapu-lapu which I wanted Mother Lily to try when she visited us sa shoot."

Baron's not one who would let his vice get in the way of his passion.

'Secret lover'

Cristine Reyes insists that she's over Dennis Trillo. But the twinkle in her eyes defies her words every time she mentions his name.

"I found out he was dating other actresses like Pauleen Luna and Kaye Abad while we were still on," she says. "Inamin naman niya. Sabi niya nalungkot lang daw siya. Unfair, kasi I was 100 percent faithful to him."

Why does Dennis fool around? "Marami kasi siyang frustrations," says Cristine. "Siguro he just needs an outlet which he finds in different girls."

If and when she goes back to the Kapuso network, would she be willing to do a teleserye with Dennis and his other ex, Carlene Aguilar? "True to life love triangle ba ang kwento?" Cristine asks, laughing. "No way."

What was the craziest thing she did for the love of Dennis? "Pumayag ako na ilihim sa lahat na on pa kami," Cristine recalls. "I wanted everything out in the open. He wanted us just to be secret lovers."

Cristine was sort of Dens' kept woman. Too bad he could not keep his promises to her as well.

All out support

Edu Manzano laughs off the issue that he feels bad because he's not included in "In My Life," the movie of his ex Vilma Santos with their son Luis Manzano.

"By the time my cameo role was discussed, it was too late," explains Edu. "Wala nang lugar sa script. So I didn't shoot a single scene. That's why I find it funny that some people say my scenes were edited out. In the first place, I'm not in the movie. But of course I'll give it my all out support and I'm proud of Luis for taking on a new challenge." Good Daddy Doods!

Setting Angel free

The fantasy-thriller TV series that marked Angel Locsin's debut on ABS-CBN, "Lobo," was hailed as the winner in the Teleserye Program category at the 30th Banff World Television Awards in Canada, a prestigious international media event.

The award should serve as a much-needed adrenaline shot for Angel who's being judged unfairly because she turned down Mother Lily's

offer to be part of "Mano Po 6."

Angel would love to do the movie but her contract with Star Cinema prohibits her from doing so. She has always been very vocal about her utang na loob to Mother Lily for casting her in "Mano Po 2." Now it's time for Mother to give Angel wings and let her fly elsewhere for now. Soon enough, she will fly back to Regal's turf.

Doting 'lolo'

Danica Sotto Pingris is all praises for her dad Vic Sotto as a lolo to her firstborn Jean-Michel a.k.a. Mic who turned 1 year old last June 29. She and cager hubby Marc gave Mic a grand party at the Fun Ranch.

"Dad doesn't spoil Mic naman," says the proud mom. "But he makes him feel so loved. He doesn't stop kissing my baby. When he visits us, dad would look for Mic right away and ask, 'Saana na 'yung maliit na tao?'"

Lolo Vic gave Mic a check for his birthday. Amount undisclosed. Knowing how generous Bossing is, it must be in the vicinity of what he gives away in "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?"

Contagious 'virus'

Ogie Alcasid wasn't wary at all that he would catch the A(H1N1) virus from his honey Regine Velasquez. "I took good care of her when she

was down with it," Ogie said. "I got worried because she was so weak and her fever was so high for almost four days." Their sweetness is more contagious than any virus. What they have is H1N1—Honey 1 N only 1!

Gary V successor?

Sam Concepcion is forever grateful to his loyal fans, SAMsters, for making him one of the most successful tween stars today.

"I've come this far because of them," Sam says. "And I know we still have a long way to go together."

Sam broke new ground when he was tapped to sing the theme of the international blockbuster "Kung Fu Panda."

Gary V handpicked Sam and Billy Crawford as his rightful successors after being impressed with Sam's performance in his concert.

His second CD will be released later this year. Catch more of Sam in "Your Song Presents" Boystown and on ASAP '09 as one of the Giger Boys.

There's something about Sam!

Leyte revelry

The Kapamilya network, headed by ABS-CBN Tacloban's station manager Clifford Nolido, recently joined the Pintados festival revelry in Leyte. Leyteños, led by Papi Cholo and Mama Mavette of MOR 94.3 For Life Sikat!, flocked to Robinsons Place where they played various games and won Kapamilya shirts and premium items.

With his songs in the vernacular, the Bob Marley of Leyteños, Banal of the Greenpeace band, made the crowd sing along with him.

Sandwich sent the crowd of 10,000 dancing on its feet. Rico Blanco proudly announced that he hails from Leyte.

It was one unforgettable fiestagavanza as the Kapamilyas painted the town red in true Pintados fashion.

Yasmien knows her rights

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—GMA 7 actress Yasmien Kurdi tries her best not to discuss her ongoing sexual harassment case against former "SRO: Sus-petsa" co-star Baron Geisler, but she can't help unleashing a mouthful.

She bristles: "It was frustrating. Nakakainis."

She'd rather not go into details, she says. "I don't want to be misquoted. I think it's better to let the lawyers do the talking."

She says she's determined to pursue the case, contrary to reports that she wanted to back out.

She feels strongly about the issue of human rights because she hopes to take up law in the future.

Kurdi, who's a second year Foreign Service student at the New Era University, advises women not to lose heart. "They shouldn't feel scared



GMA 7 actress Yasmien Kurdi

or intimidated. If they get harassed, they should speak out. If they keep quiet, it would only encourage the man to victimize other innocent women."

She, however, declines to comment on fellow Kapuso star Katrina Halili's sex video case.

"It's hard to express my opinion because I might step on people's toes. I'm an endorser of Flawless which is co-owned by Dr. Vicki Belo. My manager is Lolit Solis (with GMA Artist Center). Katrina Halili was my batch mate in 'Starstruck.'"

What she'd rather focus on is the campaign of animal rights activists against the plan to put up a Greyhound racing club in the country.

"It's so offensive. They are using poor dogs for gambling. Why legalize it? Who would benefit? As a member of Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), I want to talk to our lawmakers so that they won't legalize Greyhound racing."

Hayden's mom told to file rejoinder affidavit

By **JULIE M. AURELIO**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Quezon City prosecutors' office has directed Irene Kho, mother of cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho, to submit her rejoinder affidavit within a week's time after actress Katrina Halili filed her reply affidavit this week.

Kho, who is facing a libel complaint filed by Halili for allegedly libelous remarks made in a TV interview, was ordered to file her rejoinder by

Thursday next week.

Halili has already submitted her reply affidavit to Kho's counter affidavit, in which the actress downplayed Kho's allegations of Lolit Solis's involvement in the sex video scandal.

Halili's lawyer Raymond Palad pointed out that Kho's mention of a meeting between the Kho lawyers and Solis on May 21 would not hurt Halili.

"She was not involved in that meeting. That mention of the meeting, in which Kho alleged that Solis was behind the scandal, would not hurt Katrina," Palad said in an interview on Thursday.

Isabel after Paolo

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Breaking up is hard to do, but GMA 7 actress Isabel Oli insists that she has fully recovered after ending her romance with fellow Kapuso artist Paolo Contis.

She says if there's one lesson from that episode, it would be: "If ever I fall in love again, I'll make sure that I have time for myself, my friends, my family."

During their three-year relationship, Isabel observes that her "entire world revolved around Paolo," and vice versa.

"It wasn't that we were both the jealous type," she explains in an exclusive interview after her launch as Fullerlife endorser. "It was just that we were always together. So much so that we neglected other people."

To be fair to Paolo, she says, "we chose that kind of setup and we were happy then."

In the end, however, she realized that her "individuality" had to be pushed to the back burner.

"If ever ... I'd prioritize myself now," she notes. "I should learn to love myself more before I can choose to love another person."

She says that she has been "loveless" since splitting up from Paolo eight months ago.

"I do go out with male friends, but always with a group. I don't seriously date anyone," she relates.

She says that she has yet to sit down and talk with her ex-boyfriend. "It's funny, but we've never seen each other lately. To think, show biz is such a small world and that we are both from the



GMA 7 actress Isabel Oli

same network. It's not that we're trying to avoid each other, though."

If ever she'd bump into him, "I would say 'Hi' right away. Pao and I were good friends before becoming a couple. It would be a pity to lose that friendship."

She'd greet him even if he's with present girlfriend Lian Paz.

"I'm happy for them," she says. "At first, when it was just new, I had to adjust. But now I'm fine. I can see that he's happy and that's what I want, too."

She also has no time for intrigues — the most recent pitted her against fellow Kapuso star Nadine Samonte. "I'm okay. I hope she's also okay. Basta I know in my heart that I didn't do anything wrong."

Now that she's determined to focus on herself, she has slowed down with work and relocated to Singapore for a while, to care for her ailing father.

(Her dad is afflicted with cerebellar degeneration.)

In the city-state, she divides her time between her dad and the gym.

"I fly back when I have commitments here in Manila, like the Fuller Fashion launch," she says. "At first, I had to give up some shows like 'Darna.' But since my dad is now stable, I accepted a guest role as Geoff Eigenmann's ex-girlfriend Rica in 'Rosalinda.'"

She says she's waiting for "the right project" from her home studio. She's crossing her fingers that it would be a Koreanovela. GMA 7 is localizing two Korean shows, "Stairway to Heaven" and "Full House."

"I was a big fan of those two shows. I used to cry while watching them. It would be a dream-come-true," she says.



Angel Locsin's debut on ABS-CBN, "Lobo," was hailed as the winner in the Teleserye Program category at the 30th Banff World Television Awards in Canada.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Will she do it?

Here's a quite literal blast from the past. It was the evening of Sept. 5, 1972, a Tuesday, and most of the stores in Carriedo had just closed. People were hurrying by on their way home from work, or from shopping. Then, suddenly, at half past eight, the entrance of Joe's Department Store let out a loud roar and sent debris flying in all directions. A woman who was standing in front of it was hurled backwards and thrown into the pavement. Her face was torn off, making her completely unrecognizable. She died there and then. Forty-one other people were wounded and brought to the hospital, some of them critical—though they eventually managed to pull through. The bomb blast—which it was—left a gaping hole where a wall and a door used to be. And it left a city in shock.

It was a good thing, the newspapers would say later, that it was a Tuesday and days after payday. Or else more people might have died or gotten wounded. Less than three weeks later, Marcos declared martial law.

Jose de Venecia says he is certain President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will stay on and probably do the same thing. Well, he is not entirely wrong about it even if he is a little late warning so. In fact, even if he isn't the best person to warn so. If not for him and Fidel Ramos, the two people who were deluded enough to imagine they could control the uncontrollable, we would not have to deal with the thing he is warning us about. If martial law happens, he and Ramos will have to take a good deal of the blame for it.

I myself have no doubts that Arroyo is resolved to stay and have

been saying so all these years. Those who think Arroyo is now working on an exit plan to avoid prosecution fail to grasp her true nature. Her greatest fear is not being prosecuted, it is being out of power. In my lifetime, I have not seen anyone other than Marcos who craved power that badly. For both of them, power is not a means to an end, it is the end. The acquisition of it, the accumulation of it, the possession of it, is everything. It's like a miser's need for money: The thrill, or fulfillment, of it does not lie in the using, it lies in the having.

The idea of self-preservation means nothing to people who equate self with power. Whose sense of meaning, whose self-worth, whose defining characteristic is power. I suspect that between Marcos and Gloria, the latter has the deeper need for it. She has people kneeling before her, she can ignore the derision, the ridicule, all the slights that have come her way in her life, real or imagined. She loses that, she is nothing. She has no meaning, she has no life, she has no self. None that is worth preserving.

As they were crossing the river, the scorpion bit the carabao on whose back it had been sitting. "Why did you do that?" the carabao groaned, "now we'll both drown!" "Alas," said the scorpion, "but it is in my nature to bite."

The bombings are the surest sign she means to stay. Her government has of course put the blame alternatively on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the al-Qaida, without bothering to explain why either one would want to throw Metro Manila in a state of chaos on the eve of her departure. Gilbert Teodoro, who puts on airs of wanting to be president, even if he has absolutely no chances of winning, which makes you suspect a Palace moro-moro—my deepest apologies to the MILF and al-Qaida—has just ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to catch the bombers posthaste. The public should have no problems pointing him in the right direction, if he's interested.

The bombings share common characteristics with the ones that peppered the country in the weeks before martial law. Like them, the bombings increased in frequency shortly before the fateful

day. Like them the bombings were loud and attention-getting. Like them the bombs were placed in places that were guaranteed to produce few casualties. The logic being to make people more fearful than furious. And of course to set the case for things spinning out of control.

No, I have no doubts about Arroyo wanting to stay and doing everything in her power to do so. What I have a doubt about is her declaring martial law.

Let us be clear: I have no doubt that Arroyo will use force to achieve her goal. But I doubt she will impose the kind of martial law Marcos did, the kind that put the military in charge of government. I've advanced my arguments for that in previous columns. Suffice it to say here that that is so because unlike Marcos, she does not control the military, she controls only some key people there. Arroyo's talents do not lie in the politics of intimidation, they lie in the politics of calculation. She is past master at transactional politics, showing no peer in the ability to corrupt people. She can, and will, thrive under a civilian government; she can't under, and will be devoured by, a military government.

Her best bet is to use the bombings, and other apparent signs of a slide to anarchy, real or manufactured, to declare a state of emergency. One that would last just long enough to ram through Charter change and shift the country to parliamentary rule. A plebiscite for it could be held afterward, producing the same spectacular results favoring it that Marcos did—the machinery to steal the vote is in place with the Comelec's version of automated elections. That is the same machinery that will allow her to win as Pampanga representative to a unitary Batasan under a parliamentary system. There she would be elected by her party, the biggest one in the country, the Lakas-Kampi, as prime minister.

I have little doubt Arroyo will try this. The only question is: Will she succeed?

Ah, but there Robert Burns may have the last word: The best-laid plots of mice and women have a way of going astray.

But that is another story, best left for tomorrow.



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EDITORIAL

No amnesty

The proposal, first aired by Sen. Richard Gordon, chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross, sounds reasonable enough. Now that all the hostages from the International Committee of the Red Cross have been freed by or from the Abu Sayyaf, grant the Abu Sayyaf amnesty—as part of a necessarily long-term process to bring peace to troubled parts of Sulu and Basilan.

The idea is assuredly well-intentioned, but it is based on a fundamental error and must be rejected.

We can understand the appeal of a proposal based on the prospect of reconciliation and the possibility of rehabilitation. In ideal circumstances, an armed conflict or a paroxysm of violence should be settled this way—with those outside the law laying down their arms, as a precondition to reentering the fold of the law.

But the amnesty proposal is based on the misconception that the Abu Sayyaf group—shifting and expanding and shrinking and shifting again over at least the last decade and a half—is an ideological organization, with political aims. But no, it most emphatically isn't. It is a criminal enterprise, whose fortunes ebb and flow according to the failure or success of its kidnapping operations.

The surest proof that this latest mutation of the Abu Sayyaf is merely the same bandit gang that terrorized Sipadan and Palawan, that killed the Christian missionaries Fr. Rhoel Gallardo and Martin Burnham, that sacked the hospital in Lamitan and raided Dos Palmas, is that their latest victims have been humanitarian workers or public school teachers: the very people helping the communities the Abu Sayyaf bandits come from. It demonstrates not only the bandits' utter ruthlessness; it shows their true "ideology"—profit through violence.

Is anyone still taken in by the religious cast of some of the pronouncements of Abu Sayyaf leaders? Since the Janjalani brothers founded the deadly group, with the connivance of many, the Islamic faith has been used as a mask with which to disguise their banditry. Hostages like Gallardo and Burnham may have been subjected by their captors to sometimes intense debate about Islam and Christianity; the late Abu Sabaya and others like him may have spoken of "jihad"—but that was all a rationalization, a religious smokescreen, behind which the worst crimes could be hidden or sometimes (mistakenly) justified.

We ask: To solve the dangerous crime of armed bank robbery, should we declare an amnesty for all bank robbers? To make the streets safe for pedestrians, should we declare an amnesty for pickpockets?

The Abu Sayyaf is a bandit group; it is a loose network of criminal gangs that grows whenever there is a successful kidnapping (that is to say, when it ends with the payment of a substantial ransom), and that withers when the gangs are pried apart and when only P50,000 in "board and lodging" fees for a six-month abduction is paid.

For criminals like these, amnesty will not work. It will simply embolden them to continue doing what they are doing.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Taylor's portrait of Mabini

Apolinario Mabini will be remembered again next week in his birthplace in Batangas and at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Mabini campus in Manila where the original house where he died has been relocated from Nagtahan. Everyone knows that Mabini was a PWD (person with disability), and thus he is better known as the "Sublime Paralytic." Sometimes he is referred to as the "Brains of the Revolution," a title which was contested by no less than Andres Bonifacio's wife, Gregoria de Jesus, who insisted that it rightfully belonged to Emilio Jacinto. Textbook history introduced us to his "Verdadero Decalogo" (True Decalogue) that outlines 10 qualities of the ideal Filipino, and one would wish the people and nation he wrote this for will take it to heart.

It is unfortunate that Mabini is only remembered as a great mind trapped in a disabled body. Mabini was a simple man living in a complex time. He rose to become the most powerful person in the First Republic behind Emilio Aguinaldo, but because he had no stomach or talent for politics, he was removed from government and spent some time in the hot springs of Pangasinan licking his wounds before he was captured by the enemy and eventually exiled to Guam.

Mabini is a hero who demands renewed research because there are stray bits of information that would merit a biography to replace the pioneering and prize-winning "Apolinario Mabini Revolutionary" by the late Cesar Adib Majul, first published in 1964.

Many years ago, I combed through a compilation of Mabini's letters hoping to find the man under the hero. His letters were serious and business-like. Unlike the chatty letters of Rizal, his letters withheld his private or personal life. Among his letters, the only personal detail I unearthed was that he did not like canned meat. When he was a prisoner in Guam, he was served canned meat and he argued for—and got permission—for the prisoners to go into town and buy fresh meat, fruits and vegetables.

Before the war, the National Library under Teodoro M. Kalaw published Mabini's essays in a two-volume work known as "La Revolucion Filipina," but even that yielded little of his person. Thus, to discover Mabini beyond the textbook hero one has to wade through obscure pre-war publications mostly in Spanish. In this search, I was pleased to discover what is probably one of the first short biographies of Mabini in English by Hazel Clark Taylor (Revista Filipina/Philippine Review, April 1918). Taylor's work is introduced by H. Otley Beyer. She drew from printed sources and supplemented these with interviews, mainly of Mabini's relatives

and contemporaries. She described our hero as follows:

"Mabini was not imposing in appearance. It was through his personality that one discovered his greatness. He was of medium height and of a slender, delicate frame. He carried his head a little to one side; he had a sensitive face, high forehead, and eyes which were penetrating yet not lively. When he walked, he either looked straight ahead into space or gazed at the sky. As a rule he wore the ordinary Filipino attire, was never well-dressed, and had a single black coat when he was in the law school. When possible he avoided wearing shoes, as he disliked them. His voice was full and resonant; and he spoke slowly and distinctly.

"Throughout his life, he was devoutly religious, remaining during an entire Mass upon his knees. He was faithful to his friends and just in all his dealings with men. Too proud to accept assistance from anyone, he trusted always in his own strength. He spoke little and thought much; thought out ideals which men of action gave their lives to bring into being, though some grew selfish and failed.

"He had no love affairs. Once when in the Malabanan college, he was heard to remark that a certain 'daughter of the soil' in Bauan was pretty; several times he called upon a distinguished lady of Trozo during 1891; but there ends the history

of his social relations with women. In his belief that woman was a vain, self-centered creature, we may accuse him of being conventionally commonplace. Though he, too, was said to have admired beautiful eyes! In view of the fact that he felt a wife would not only hinder him in the work he felt it his duty to perform but also because he would not ask anyone to share his miserable existence, he never allowed himself to contemplate matrimony. Nevertheless we know that he must have appreciated, in some measure at least, the part it might play in the history of a Philippine nation."

Mabini died at the age of 39 in May 1903, a victim of cholera resulting from drinking bad carabao milk. He did not die a forgotten man. Many attended his funeral, braving the threat of contamination and being placed on the watch list of suspected "insurrectos" by the Americans. Many saw in Mabini the continuing struggle for independence and nationhood and were inspired.

Unfortunately, we do not commemorate Mabini's memory as we should. His words are as sharp and relevant today as when they were first written over a century ago, proof that he was not prophetic but rather that Filipinos have not changed much since the time of the Revolution.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samu't Sari



CHANGE OF COMMAND

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is flanked by outgoing Rear Admiral William D. French, U.S. Navy, Commander Joint Region Marianas and his wife, Monica French, at the Change of Command Ceremony held in Guam last Thursday, July 16, 2009. French has been replaced by Rear Admiral Douglass T. Biesel, U.S. Navy as of Thursday.



THRICE THE CHARM

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Self-styled Coke fanatic Marites Castillo, right, won for the third consecutive week in Coca-Cola's Red Hot Summer Promo. Rusty Loyola (left), operations manager of Coca-Cola's Beverage Company (Micronesia), Inc. awarded Coca-Cola cooler bags with six-pack Coca-Cola products, Coke Dome Tent and Coke Inflatable Chair to Jojie Montenejo, another winner, and Castillo at the Transpacific Business Center conference room July 15. Also in photo is Maritess, daughter, Betty Matson.



FAM TOUR ON TINIAN

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Media representatives from the Guangzhou, China region meet Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, right, during their recent familiarization tour of Saipan and Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands. Tinian offers visitors Micronesia's only world-class gaming at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.



IN APPRECIATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela presents Leung Yic of Falun Dafa a certificate of appreciation for Falun Dafa's most generous support to the 2009 Liberation Day festivities for the beautiful marching band during the July 4, 2009, Liberation Day parade. Next to Tudela is James Sung, mayor's special representative in economic and tourism to the People's Republic of Taiwan.



PROMO WINNER

Labor office employee John I. Tagabuel smiles as he sits inside his new dirt buggy, the grand prize in the 2009 Budweiser King Off The Road annual promo.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



ART WINNER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School graduate Rosanna Luis Camacho poses in front of the Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. after winning in the recently held 2009 Congressional Art Competition. Her work, which now hangs at the Cannon Tunnel, shows pictures of the local culture, island sites, and World War II relics.



NEW GRADUATE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mary Louise Owen DeLeon Guerrero graduates with honors from Boise State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration on May 16, 2009. DeLeon Guerrero is the daughter of Edward C. and Eve O. DeLeon-Guerrero of Koblerville, Saipan. Her brothers, Michael and Matthew, are also attending Boise State University.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings going out to Russell Hocog, who is celebrating his birthday today, July 18, 2009. Hope you have a great one! Greetings coming out from all your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Noah Mesa, who is celebrating his birthday today! May you have a great and blessed birthday, son! We love you so very much! You are such a blessing in our lives. We are so proud of you! Love Daddy, Mommy, your brothers and the rest of the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

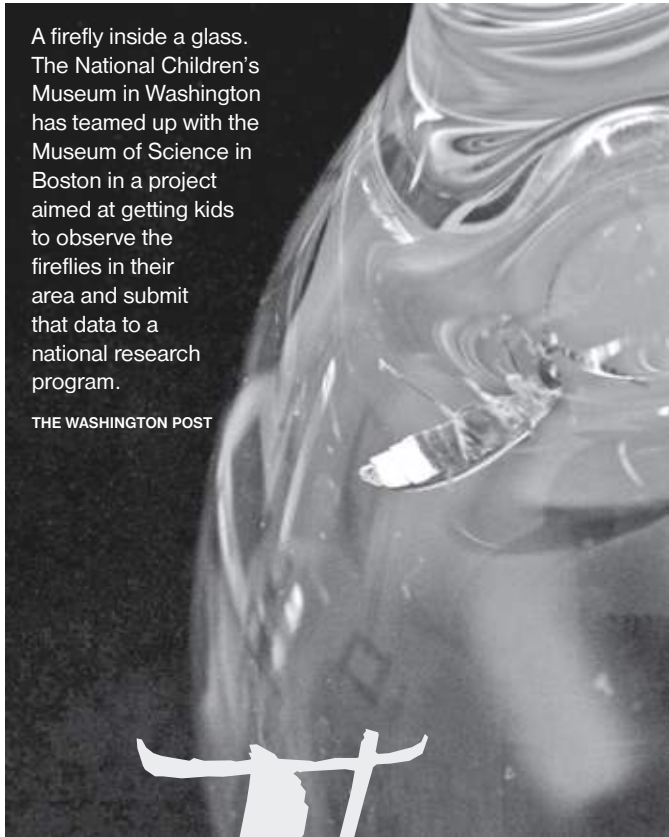
Happy second birthday to Mai Janae Sakai Peters! Greetings coming from your whole family, most especially your nino Charisma!

YoungStyle

Taking a shine to fireflies

A firefly inside a glass. The National Children's Museum in Washington has teamed up with the Museum of Science in Boston in a project aimed at getting kids to observe the fireflies in their area and submit that data to a national research program.

THE WASHINGTON POST



By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Looking for fireflies is a well-loved summer-night activity, but now there's a new reason to get outside and find those flashy little insects. The National Children's Museum has teamed up with the Museum of Science in Boston in a project aimed at getting kids to observe the fireflies in their area and submit that data to a national research program.

"There's not a lot known about fireflies," said Don Salvatore, a science educator at the Boston Museum of Science, especially when it comes to counting the

insects. "We don't know if fireflies are disappearing. A lot of people think they are, and there's a lot of anecdotal evidence but no real scientific data."

This year, in fact, there seem to be more fireflies than in recent years, which firefly experts attribute to the wet weather. But to really understand the things that affect firefly populations, scientists need to track firefly levels over several years.

Last year, Salvatore's museum and researchers at Tufts University in Massachusetts created a program called Firefly Watch, which asks people to look at the fireflies in their own back yards and submit the data they gather. The program started with almost no publicity, but already 1,400 people are submitting their firefly observations from 36 states! People just love fireflies.

Linda Coulombe, manager of science programs at the National Children's Museum, operating now in temporary space at National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Md., thought kids would love to participate. So the two museums created a new Web site for kids, at www.readyssetglow.org, that is full of firefly facts and games, along with information on the Firefly Watch program and how to join.

To participate, you have to register online with your parents and answer basic questions about your back yard, such as where it is, how light it is and what kinds of trees and bushes there are. Then you have to spend a few minutes once a week recording the firefly action outside.

The data gathered in the first year will be used as the starting point for what the directors hope will be years of data tracking firefly populations and health.

Citizen projects like this are a great way for scientists to get data from many geographic areas—a system commonly used to track bird populations and migrations. The museums like it because it makes people think about science as a real-world experience, not just something you do in school.

"We want kids to start thinking about science as a hobby and something fun that you love to do," Coulombe said.

And who doesn't love fireflies?



THE WASHINGTON POST

This year, there seem to be more fireflies than in recent years, which firefly experts attribute to the wet weather. But to really understand the things that affect firefly populations, scientists need to track firefly levels over several years.

For siblings, keeping count is as easy as 1... 2... 3...

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Georgia and Ian Jenkins had their clipboards and bug spray ready, so as dusk fell they headed out into the front yard of their home in Fort Washington, Md.

"I'm going to give you a 10-second count," said their mother, Michelle.

As Michelle Jenkins counted to 10 while looking at her watch, Georgia, 8, and Ian, 12, jabbed their pens into the air while tracking the little yellow-green lights popping up all over the grassy yard. "... 8 ... 9 ... 10. And stop," said their mother.

"I saw 14!" said Georgia, who was counting in one part of the yard. "I saw 11," said Ian, counting in another.

This was the family's first firefly-counting session; they will record their data with Firefly Watch, the national

program that is asking people to help track firefly populations in their own yards. The kids signed up after attending a program at the National Children's Museum. Once a week through the summer, they will count how many fireflies they see in a 10-second period, making observations about the evening and the setting.

"What's the wind speed tonight?" Ian asked, as he filled in his Firefly Watch charts. His mother had looked it up online: It's 7 miles per

hour, she tells him.

The kids' enthusiasm for the project is evident as they record their data. Most bugs "creep me out," Georgia said, but not fireflies. "They're really pretty, beautiful bugs—well, beetles," she said, correcting herself.

"And I feel honored to be part of something official," Ian said. "A real science experiment."

Firefly fact

If you flick a flashlight on and off in the direction of a firefly, you might be able to get it to flash back at you. *(The Washington Post)*

Fireflies at a glance

- Another name for fireflies is lightning bugs.
- Fireflies are beetles. (They are neither bugs nor flies!)

- Different species have different color "lights," ranging from yellow-green to green to amber.
- There are more than 1,900 species worldwide.
- The light from fireflies produces no heat and has been extensively studied.

- In species commonly seen in the mid-Atlantic area, males light up while flying and females sit in bushes to watch the show! When they see a potential mate, they light up in response to the male. *(The Washington Post)*

Summer Book Club: A book that puts the moon within reach

By TRACY GRANT
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST



THE WASHINGTON POST

July 20 marks the 40th anniversary of the amazing journey of Apollo 11 to put men on the moon. "Moon Landing: Apollo 11 40th Anniversary Pop-Up," by Richard Platt and David Hawcock, celebrates the historic occasion.

"Moon Landing: Apollo 11 40th Anniversary Pop-Up"

By Richard Platt and David Hawcock

Ages 6 and older

"It has a stark beauty all its own. It's like much of the high desert of the United States. It's different, but it's very pretty out here."

That's how Neil Armstrong, the first person to set foot on the moon, described what he saw. July 20 marks the 40th anniversary of the amazing journey of Apollo 11 to put men on the moon. This amazing book is as good a place as any to mark the historic occasion.

We know; you think, "Pop-up book? Those are for babies." But this is a pop-up book that no sticky-handed toddler should get near. No, kids, the family member you might have to fight with over who gets this book is more likely to be Mom or Dad. That's how cool it is.

Open the first page to see the recreation of the fiery launch of the Redstone rocket that took astronaut Alan Shepard into space in 1961 for all of 15 minutes. As you turn the pages, a

A month of moon events at the Smithsonian

If you haven't seen the lunar lander at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, that would be a great expedition for the whole family. It's amazing how homemade the real thing looks, but it was state-of-the-art at the time it was built.

The Air and Space Museum has lots of moon-related events going on this month, including Countdown to the Moon Day on Thurs-

day. You can see a complete listing of events at www.nasm.si.edu.

Make sure you keep an eye on your local television listings, too, for shows about the Apollo 11 landing. You can't help but get a thrill when you see the footage of the first man to walk on the moon. Everyone should see it at least once in his or her life. *(The Washington Post)*

You might also like ...

If you found the Apollo 11 flight interesting, then you might want to check out "Future Tech: From Personal Robots to Motorized Monocycles." This National Geographic Investigates book shows you some of the cool technologies and breakthroughs that are likely to happen later in your lifetime. *(The Washington Post)*

three-dimensional view of the moon pops out at you, showing the landing sites for all six Apollo missions that

reached the moon.

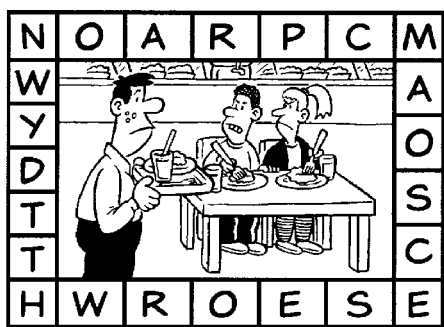
Some of the best information in this book, however, appears flat on the

Space travel fact

Two dogs, Veterok and Ugolyok, hold the record for longest space flight by dogs. They were in orbit for 22 days in 1966 before returning safely to Earth. *(The Washington Post)*

page. A simple diagram and chart allows you to see the 10 stages (including blasting off, orbiting the moon, landing on the moon and heading home) that astronauts went through on each mission. There are also very neat "books within the book." These miniature guides are tucked into pockets and tell about the crews on all the Apollo missions and some of the scientists and inventors who made space exploration possible.

This book will help you understand the importance of the historic phrase "The Eagle has landed"—if, of course, you can pry it out of your father's hands.



ODD MAN OUT! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counter-clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the bottom "T" in the left rail: "Two's company, three's a crowd."

A HIRAM HAYSTACK PROBLEM!

If Hiram has 25 haystacks in one field, 14 in another, 9 in yet another, and 5 in his smallest field, how many haystacks would there be altogether?

Answer: If he had them altogether, he'd have one very large haystack.

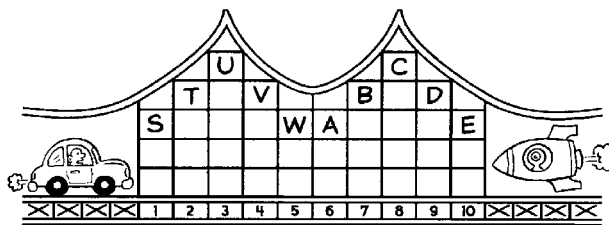
A TIGHT SQUEEZE! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with BOA. Some hints are:

1. BOA (in place).
2. Has tusks.
3. To brag.
4. A straw hat.
5. Summer sport.
6. Type of house.

Answers: 1. Boar. 2. Boar. 3. Boast. 4. Boater. 5. Boating. 6. Boarding.



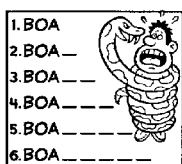
A WORD BRIDGE!



Illustrated by David Coulson

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus the following hints:

1. How you drink hot liquids.
2. Found on new clothes.
3. Found in a Broadway theater.
4. Second to the president.
5. A type of museum.
6. A hole-in-one.
7. To cheat or swindle.
8. A monotonous, rhythmic call.
9. To show how to do something.
10. A large, flightless bird.



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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ Though chocolate has been around in one form or another for centuries, milk chocolate wasn't invented until 1876. Sugar and cocoa were in short supply in Europe in those days, so an inventive candy maker in Switzerland began adding milk into the mix, since dairy products were available in abundance.

■ Sharks are color-blind.

■ Other than athletic ability, do you know what baseball player Hank Aaron, basketball player Dennis Rodman, tennis player Martina Navratilova, football player Joe Namath and track star Carl Lewis have in common? They are all vegetarians.

■ You probably have never heard of the World Beard and Moustache Championships, but the event really does exist, taking place every two years. Americans dominated the recent 2009 event, in Alaska; the next will take place in Norway. I don't usually include Web links in this column, but if you have a chance, go to www.worldbeardchampionships.com to check out the bizarre photos.

■ You might not be surprised to learn that Brussels sprouts contain comparatively high levels of sulfur.

■ If you ever get the opportunity to travel Down Under, you might want to make a stop at Mount Wingen to see an unparalleled natural phenomenon. Experts say that, thanks to vast deposits of coal near the Earth's surface, a fire has been burning continuously there for about 6,000 years.

■ As the Earth moves in its orbit around the sun, it travels at 18.5 miles every second. That's 1,110 miles a minute, or 66,600 miles per hour.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think, they'll hate you."—Don Marquis

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MAGIC MAZE • FROM WHERE WE SPEAK

C R O P L J G E B Y W U R P N
K I G D O B Z P X V S Q O M P
K M I G E T C O A Y D W U E S
Q P R N **B A N D S T A N D** L H
J H S O F E C I X A I E Y G X
V U S D F S E U A O S P I Q P
N M T P N T G M K T B H L J H
F E U C E A A B A Z N P Y U X
V U M T M T T L R O Q U A P P
O M P B L K S S P O T F O O R
I H O G E D M U R T S O R M S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Ambo	Pedestal	Roof tops	Stands
Bandstand	Platform	Rostrum	Steps
Dais	Podium	Soapbox	Upon high
Mountain top	Pulpit	Stage	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

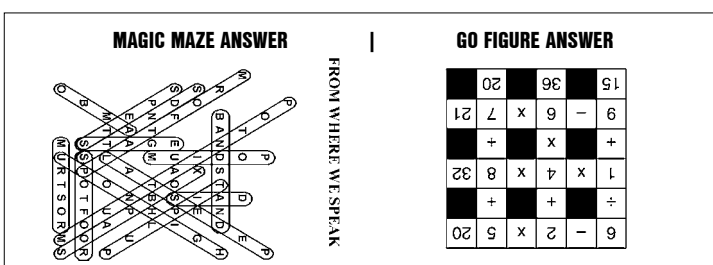
DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	-		x		20
÷		+		+	
	x		x		32
+		x		+	
	-		x		21
15		36		20	

1 2 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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Flea-fighting plants

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Just a comment on your column about the woman who has cats with fleas. There's a prevention I heard of years ago that might be helpful. Someone told me that eucalyptus will repel fleas. I bought a large spray of it and put it in a vase on the floor, near the couch where my dogs lounge.

My dogs (five of them through the years) never had a problem with fleas, despite having long, thick coats. They were outdoors a lot and socialized with other dogs, so there was ample opportunity for them to become infested.

Another person told me she grew eucalyptus in the garden, which was near where her dog played in the yard, and she had no problem with fleas, either.

Using eucalyptus might give pet owners an advantage over the flea problem and eliminate some of the care, concern and vet visits.—K.H.S., Fairport, N.Y.

DEAR K.H.S.: You know, I hadn't brought up using plants as a flea repellent, but it is well worth a try. This plant can be purchased at garden centers or home-improvement stores, fully grown



or as seeds.

As with any new plant, don't let your pets eat it—eucalyptus may be toxic to dogs and cats, so place it out of reach or fence-off garden areas that have it.

Other flea-fighting plants include lavender and mint, so consider adding these to your kitchen garden or placing around the house.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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'Jack's Million-Dollar Bars' are a dessert hit

Garage-sale season arrived in our neighborhood in grand style when a group of energetic teens and their parents recently put on a super sale under a big white tent in the middle of the block to raise money for their year-old, city-wide co-ed youth rowing team.

Eager passersby snapped up the usual skates, skis and salad bowls, but the surprise attraction was the tempting "Bake Sale" table. That's where I spotted "Jack's Million-Dollar Bars." At only 75 cents each, how could I resist? One bite of the chocolaty, nutty confection, and I knew I had to have the recipe. But who was Jack?

He's a real 16-year-old high-school sophomore who is not only active on the rowing team, but also an enthusiastic cook who loves to dabble in the kitchen. "I started making family dinners around eighth grade as an excuse to not do homework," he admitted with a grin. "But now I take cooking seriously and enjoy sautéing meats, shellfish and vegetables, and experimenting with spices."

Whatever gets Jack into the kitchen, these delicious bars could be his real success story. Try them, and you'll be happy that I stopped by that bake-sale table.

Ingredients:

Base
4 cups rolled oats
3/4 cup butter
1/4 cup light corn syrup
1 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup peanut butter
1 teaspoon vanilla

Topping

1 package (11-ounce) butter-scotch chips
1 package (12-ounce) semi-sweet chocolate chips
1/3 cup peanut butter
1 cup salted, dry-roasted peanuts



by Donna Erickson

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking pan.

2. Measure oats into a large mixing bowl. Set aside. Melt together the butter, brown sugar, corn syrup, peanut butter and vanilla in a saucepan over low heat. Pour over oatmeal and mix together. Press base mixture into the greased pan and bake for 10 minutes or until lightly brown. Cool for about 30 minutes.

3. Using the same saucepan, melt butter-scotch chips, chocolate chips and peanut butter over low heat. Stir in peanuts and spread evenly over base. Cool to room temperature.

4. Refrigerate 1 hour until firm enough to cut neatly into squares. Or, leave on counter and cut the next day. Jack suggests using a small metal spatula that doesn't bend to cut and remove bars from the pan. Makes 30 bars.

TIP: For a bake sale, set each square on a paper cupcake cup for stability. Wrap with plastic wrap and top with a sticker or label.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

TV comedy is Tina Fey's world

NEW YORK (AP)—Television comedy is Tina Fey's world these days. Is there room for anybody else?

Fey and "30 Rock," her series about the backstage world at a late-night network show, swept both the Emmys and Golden Globes in the past year, and she's set up to do it again at this year's Emmys.

"30 Rock" earned 22 Emmy nominations on Thursday, shattering a record of 17 for best comedy series that it had set only last year. And Fey was The Associated Press' entertainer of the year in 2008, in part for her gut-busting impersonation of Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

"30 Rock," which won the last two Emmys for best comedy, is appearing as dominant as "Frasier" was in the 1990s, when it won the best comedy Emmy for five years straight.

Fey, who wasn't available to talk about her nominations, seems to recognize the roll she's on. When she picked up a Golden Globe award in January, she said, "I want you to know that I really know how very lucky I am to



In this undated photo released by NBC, actors Tina Fey as Liz Lemon and Alec Baldwin as Jack Donaghy are shown in a scene from "30 Rock."

have the year that I've had this year." On both awards shows, she was named best actress in a comedy.

Other Emmy nominees for best comedy this year are NBC's "The Office," "Flight of the Conchords" and "Entourage" on HBO, Fox's animated "Family Guy" and Showtime's "Weeds."

While "30 Rock" is very funny, it also benefits from being popular at a relatively down cycle for TV comedy, said Rob Long, a former writer at "Cheers" who runs his own comedy blog.

"'30 Rock' is a lot better as a show than it really needs to be," Long said. "It doesn't have a lot of competition."

The series had the kind of surrealistic season finale this year that showed its hip cache. Guest included Mary J. Blige, Clay Aiken, Elvis Costello, Wyclef Jean, Moby, Ad Rock and Sheryl Crow.

The ability to draw guest stars is a strength and gimmick. "30 Rock" won three of the five Emmy nominations Thursday for guest actor in a comedy series for Alan Alda, Jon Hamm and Steve Martin.

It's the type of show that everybody in the comedy business wishes they had on their resume, Long said.

Still, it can leave rivals feeling crowded. Four of the five nominations for best writing in a comedy series went for episodes of "30 Rock." One episode of "Flight of the Conchords" was the only exception.

"I think it's a very good show, a very funny show," said Greg Daniels, executive producer of NBC's "The Office." "I think in the writing category, we could have gotten a nomination, too. I think that's a little excessive there, the enthusiasm of the writer's wing."

"30 Rock" was moved in NBC's Thursday night lineup this season to a slot after "The Office," because Daniels' ensemble comedy has a bigger audience.

In fact, Fey used her Emmy platform last fall to plead for more viewers. It worked. The series had an average audience of 7.8 million viewers this season, up 20 percent over the year before. "The Office" went up, too, to 9.3 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Phil Keoghan keeps it real during Emmy nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Talk about keeping things real.

When Phil Keoghan got the call Thursday telling him he'd been nominated for an Emmy, the host of "The Amazing Race" says he was standing in his garage in his underwear, scraping the walls in preparation for a home renovation.

Perhaps it was his way of not appearing overconfident as he waited for word on whether he'd scored a nomination for best reality show host. After all, the genial New Zealander had been passed over last year when the category was added to the Emmys.

That, despite the fact that his show, "The Amazing Race," has won the award for best reality show every year



In this Sept. 21, 2008 file photo, Phil Keoghan, host of the CBS reality competition "The Amazing Race," is shown at the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

since 2003.

"I missed out and I felt like the orphan in the production," he recalled with a laugh.

The way last year's Emmy Awards show played out, however, it was probably in his best interests to have been snubbed.

In a coming-out-party of sorts, hosting duties for last year's Emmys was divided among the five nominated reality show hosts. Critics agreed: They all flopped at it, big-time.

"There have been boring, listless and otherwise ham-handed Emmy broadcasts among the past 59. Sunday's Emmycast was all of those things," Associated Press television critic Frazier Moore wrote in a review typical of reaction.

Single drug a key to Jackson probe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With the investigation of Michael Jackson's death zeroing in on what drugs the pop singer took and who provided them, an upcoming toxicology report is key to whether anyone is criminally charged.

It's already known propofol, a powerful anesthetic not meant for home use, was among the drugs found in Jackson's rented mansion. The Los Angeles Police Department, working with the Drug Enforcement Administration and California attorney general's office, is trying to determine how the medications got there.

The coroner's toxicology report and the full autopsy results are not expected until the week after next. It will provide two important facts: whether propofol and any other drugs were present in the 50-year-old singer when he died June 25, and whether the levels were toxic.

"The quantity is key here," said Lawrence Kobilinsky, head of foren-

sic science at John Jay College in New York. "Not only the presence, but the amount that has to be interpreted to see if it contributed to the death."

Kobilinsky sees propofol as "a smoking gun."

"There is no reason it should have been available to him. If it is a contributing factor to his death, then I think there would be criminal charges," he said.

The district attorney's office is in contact with police—a common practice during an investigation—but no evidence has been presented for possible charges, prosecutors' spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said.

Police have said very little publicly. Chief William Bratton has said detectives are scrutinizing Jackson's prescription history and the doctors with whom he dealt, and haven't ruled out anything.

"Are we dealing with homicide? Are we dealing with an accidental overdose? What are we dealing with?"

Bratton said last week.

Investigators obtained a search warrant and removed several bottles of propofol from Jackson's home, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation. The person is not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity.

Federal drug agents have contacted a major maker of propofol, Teva Pharmaceuticals, and drug distributor AmerisourceBergen Corp. Authorities asked AmerisourceBergen for sales data on propofol and its brand-name counterpart Diprivan to doctors, pharmacies and hospitals, company spokesman Michael Kilpatrick told The Associated Press.

It's part of an effort to determine how the drug made it from the factory to Jackson's home. It's a mound of information, but investigators sorting through it have a critical edge: They're focusing on just a handful of doctors who hovered in Jackson's orbit, among them his longtime dermatologist, Dr. Arnold Klein, and recently hired personal physician Conrad Murray.

Porn actor gets 3-8 years in Pa. rooftop break-ins

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A porn star who was accused of using a handsaw and an ax to break into stores through their rooftops while his twin brother and occasional co-star acted as a lookout is going to prison for at least three years.

Taleon Goffney, who appeared with his brother in such gay skin flicks as "Marc and the Twins," was arrested last year after police said they saw the twins breaking into a beauty shop.

He pleaded guilty to two counts each of burglary and criminal conspiracy and was sentenced to three to eight years. Charges including criminal trespass, receiving stolen property and possession of an instrument of crime were dropped in exchange for his pleas.

Goffney, 27, could have faced up to 40 years in prison if convicted after trial.

"Thank you for your lenience in accepting my plea," Goffney, of Pennsauken, N.J., told a judge in court Wednesday. "These crimes won't be happening again."

Goffney's twin brother, Keyonty Goffney, also is charged and appeared at Wednesday's hearing, but it was unclear if he planned to negotiate a plea. He's due back in court Aug. 6. Neither his lawyer, Gerald Stein, nor Assistant District Attorney Caroline Keating immediately returned telephone calls from The Associated Press on Thursday.

Keating told the Philadelphia Daily News that Taleon Goffney is sure to serve at least the minimum three years due to his prior criminal record. Goffney's lawyer, Michael F. Gushue, told the newspaper that his client plans to complete his college education while in prison.

"I think he's had an epiphany," Gush-

ue said. "He's a bright young man."

The brothers have appeared in Internet porn videos under the names Teyon and Keyon, said Erik Schut, of Philadelphia-based video retailer TLA Entertainment Group. They could have had good careers if they hadn't gotten into trouble, he said in February.

"They are incredibly good-looking, and being identical twins, it's a novelty," Schut said then.

In "Marc and the Twins," the brothers offer to audition for chiseled porn star Marc Williams in a seedy hotel room and are seen rubbing each other's chests.

Keyonty Goffney has appeared in porn since at least 2002 and worked as a fashion model, while Taleon Goffney got involved in

porn more recently.

Taleon Goffney, who police believe is a trained gymnast and karate expert, has used his athleticism to make several daring escapes.

He was handcuffed in the back of a moving police cruiser after a 2006 drug arrest in Clementon, N.J., when he broke out the glass with his head and jumped into a lake while still handcuffed, police Chief Dave Kunkel said.

"He swam across like Flipper, taunting the officers, saying, 'You'll never catch me,'" Kunkel told the Daily News for a story in February.

He turned himself in a week later. In January 2007, he jumped 30 feet from the roof of a Camden, N.J., liquor store and swam across the frigid Cooper River before he was caught, police said.

A defense lawyer, Jeffrey Zucker, said Goffney "should have signed up for the Olympics" and referred to him as Spider-Man.



Goffney



Jackson

Esteemed stage actor relishes Dumbledore role

In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Michael Gambon portrays Albus Dumbledore in "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

AP



NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Gambon was in the midst of shooting his fourth film as Professor Albus Dumbledore in the "Harry Potter" films when the series' author, J.K. Rowling, brought forth an unexpected revelation about his character.

The regal Hogwarts headmaster, Rowling said, was gay. When Gambon later saw Rowling on the set of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," he had one question: "Is it because of the way I'm playing it?"

While Gambon acknowledges he was "cutting around" on set upon learning the wizard's sexuality, he states clearly: "It doesn't make any difference."

But the 68-year-old actor, who keeps cigarettes hid under Dumbledore's robes, has never shied from a moment of levity. Long known as something of a trickster himself, he hypothesizes that Rowling merely blurted it out to surprise people, and says he identifies with the instinct "to cause trouble or make people think or kick people off their security blanket."

That goes for his acting, too. Gambon revels in doing the "strange, odd and unexpected," particularly on the stage where

he's known for altering a performance from night to night.

It's ironic that Gambon—one of the most esteemed stage actors of a generation—has become most widely identified with a wizard in a series meant for teenagers, not unlike Ian McKellen's experience playing Gandalf in "The Lord of the Rings."

Now, Gambon says, it's common for a young child to anxiously spy him while sipping coffee at a cafe.

"It's very odd," Gambon said in an interview shortly after the film's crazed London premiere. "I hadn't realized before just how powerful these things are. I just do the job and go home and you forget it"—adding a snap of his finger.

Gambon inherited the role after Richard Harris, who played Dumbledore in the first two films, died in 2002. He has company in the cast, divided between young upstarts and elder statesmen of British acting: Alan Rickman, Jim Broadbent, Maggie Smith.

"They rang me up and said, 'Will you do it?' Like any other job I said, 'Sure,'" recalled Gambon. "Then you find yourself in the middle of this thing."

Gambon comes from a dif-

ferent generation of actors: a "working actor" eager for constant work and not as "fussy" as today's younger crop of thespians. Born in Ireland and raised in London, Gambon was classically trained and eventually recruited by Laurence Olivier for his National Theatre Company.

He established himself on the stage with widely hailed performances of Shakespeare ("Othello," "Macbeth," "King Lear") and Harold Pinter ("Betrayal," "The Caretaker"). He was given the nickname "The Great Gambon," praised for the physicality, nuance and unpredictability of his performances.

"I've played quite a lot of crooks and killers, and that's quite interesting," says Gambon. "Then Dumbledore is the complete opposite, isn't he? He's a nice old man."

He's amassed more than 100 film and TV credits in his career, predominantly as a character actor. Roles of note include Philip Marlow in the mid-'80s BBC series "The Singing Detective" and Fyodor Dostoyevsky in 1997's "The Gambler." Others include Robert Altman's "Gosford Park," Wes Anderson's "The Life Aquatic with Steve

right away, that allowed several people to get out, to avoid being hit," he said.

The cause of the roof collapse was not clear. Police and emergency officials cordoned off the area.

Madonna's "Sticky & Sweet" tour was due to arrive in Marseille on Sunday, but the concert was canceled because "rebuilding a stage, it's not possible," Di Nocera said.

Marseille prosecutors asked the regional safety agency to investigate the cause of the accident.

sent a letter of condolence following Michael Jackson's death last month.

Sumfest will run July 19-25 in Montego Bay.

The brothers performed in Jamaica with Michael as the Jackson 5 at Kingston's National Stadium in 1975.

Zissou" and Michael Mann's "The Insider."

Gambon will appear in the final two Potter films, which are being shot and will be released in fall 2010 and summer 2011, respectively. But fans of Rowling's books know well that "The Half-Blood Prince" is a film of particular importance to Dumbledore and Gambon—for reasons that set off shrill sirens of "spoiler alert."

Suffice it to say, "The Half-Blood Prince" represents a culmination of Gambon's time in Potterville—an era he views with warmth.

"This will stick out as being a happy memory, being with a thing for so long and the worldwide love of it," says Gambon. "You never forget that."

Court postponed for Sutherland's alleged head-butt

NEW YORK (AP)—Kiefer Sutherland won't be in Manhattan court this week to answer allegations that he head-butted a fashion designer.

A spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney's office says the actor's scheduled court appearance Friday on an assault charge has been postponed. A new date has not been set yet.

The star of the Fox TV show "24" was charged May 7 with misdemeanor assault after designer Jack McCollough said he head-butted him and broke his nose at a Manhattan nightclub.

Sutherland and McCollough issued a joint statement a few weeks later saying they had resolved their differences, clearing the way for charges to be dropped. Sutherland apologized to McCollough in the statement.

Sutherland's lawyer did not return a call for comment Thursday.

Disney World bus crash hurts 12 at Fla. theme park

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Officials say two buses have collided at Walt Disney World, leaving a dozen visitors with minor injuries.

A Florida Highway Patrol report says one Disney bus rear-ended another Thursday afternoon. About 50 people were on both buses. The 12 injured passengers were taken to four nearby hospitals for treatment.

The accident comes 11 days after 21-year-old monorail pilot Austin Wuennenberg died when another train accidentally backed into his train at the sprawling Orlando resort.

The park's vast transit system shuttles thousands of visitors around the attraction each day.

Boyfriend questions wisdom of long-distance commitment

DEAR ABBY: I am a 20-year-old woman who has been in a committed relationship with my boyfriend, "Ian," for three years. I attend a university out of the country, so our relationship is mostly long-distance. We are in love and have discussed a future after I graduate. Ian says I'm the reason he has goals and wants to live a meaningful life.



Dear Abby

Every now and then he says he's afraid that he is holding me back—that because I'm so committed to him I am missing out on some of the most important experiences I could have at the university. I have told Ian I'm happy with what we have and wouldn't trade it. If I wasn't with him, I would probably see other men, but more sexual freedom wouldn't make me happier. All my single friends say they would rather have what I have.

Our relationship means far more to me than the odd fling would. Ian says he has no desire to be with other women, but he's afraid I don't know what I want because I haven't had experience with other men. How can I convince him that this is what I really want?

DECISIVE IN SCOTLAND

DEAR DECISIVE: Tell your boyfriend that while some women may enjoy quantity, you have an eye for quality, and he is the grand prize you have waited for all your life. Then tell him you're a one-man woman, and he's stuck with you. (This should do the trick, unless he's projecting his own feelings of ambivalence onto you.)

DEAR ABBY: In May 2001, you printed my letter alerting former prisoners of war and their widows to the special veterans' benefits available to them from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The response was great; many former POWs and their dependents now have their VA benefits because of that column.

Now, as chairman of VA outreach for American Ex-Prisoners of War, I write to alert all veterans (not just former POWs) of a recent VA ruling.

On Sept. 23, 2008, Lou Gehrig's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, was made a presumptive condition for all veterans who served in our armed forces for at least 90 days.

This means that the widows of those veterans who died of Lou Gehrig's disease in years past are eligible for the VA widows' monthly benefit, which is very substantial. Many people are not aware that a veteran's death due to this disease is now considered service-connected. One claim I handled recently involved an ALS death 46 years ago, in 1963.

Thank you for your help in getting the word out, Abby.

FRED CAMPBELL, AMERICAN
EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

DEAR FRED: I'm pleased to help you and America's veterans once again. Readers, Fred welcomes inquiries at 3312 Chatterton Drive, San Angelo, TX 76904. He can also be e-mailed at fredrev@webtv.net.

DEAR ABBY: I am 8 years old. My mom told me our neighbor's dog was old and sick, so he had to put his dog to sleep. I hate this. I know it is what is best for the dog, but I can't stop thinking about it. How can I get over this?

HENRY IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR HENRY: Your neighbor's dog was put on this earth to run and play and enjoy his doggie life. When an animal is no longer able to do that and spends his days and nights in pain, then the kind—but very difficult—thing for a pet guardian to do is to let him go. Being put to sleep was a gentle way to go, and when you think about your neighbor's dog, you should remind yourself of that.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Stage for French Madonna show collapses; 1 dead

MARSEILLE, France (AP)—The roof of a stage being built for a Madonna concert in the French port city of Marseille collapsed Thursday, leaving one worker dead and nine injured, city officials said.

The roof at the Stade Velodrome stadium fell apart on top of several workers.

One worker was killed and two of the injured were seriously hurt, said Maurice Di Nocera, Marseille city councilor in charge of major events, said on France-Info radio. The seriously

injured were an American and a Briton, said the Marseille central fire department. The killed worker was French. No identities were released.

Four other people had multiple injuries, including fractured bones, and three others suffered light injuries, the fire department said. All of the injured were taken to local hospitals.

Di Nocera said the roof had been about two-thirds complete when it collapsed gradually on top of several workers.

"Since it did not collapse

MJ's brothers to attend Jamaica's Reggae Sumfest

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Three of Michael Jackson's brothers expect to attend next month's Reggae Sumfest in Jamaica which is dedicated this year to the deceased king of pop.

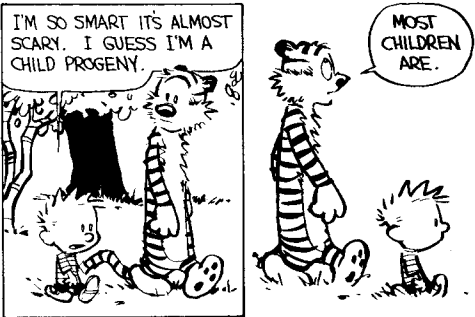
Summerfest Productions says Marlon, Tito and Randy Jack-

son confirmed they will be at the weeklong music festival's International Night. It will feature Toni Braxton and reggae singer Damian Marley.

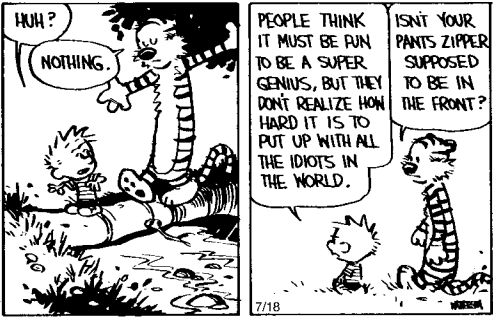
Spokesman Johnny Gourzong said Thursday that a Jackson family representative contacted the promoter after the company

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

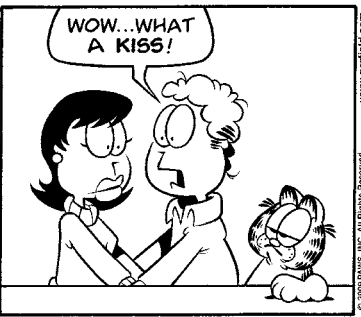


By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



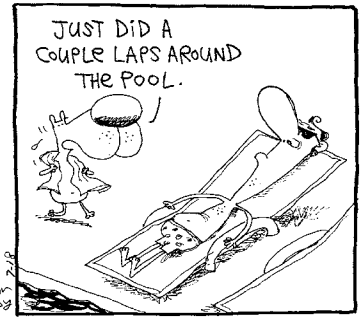
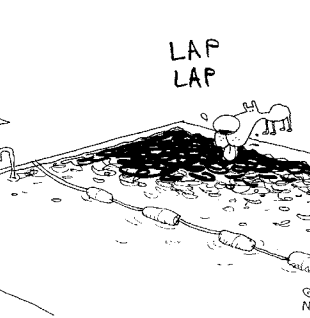
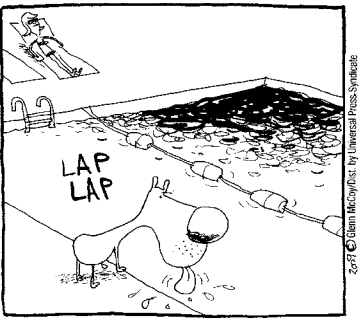
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Pivot line 54 Ceremonies 13 Hose woes 18 Comprehend 21 Hilton heiress 23 Swing around wildly 25 Accomplished 27 Started 29 Filleted 31 Musical instrument 32 "Everybody out!" 33 Nap 34 For example 36 Hen talk 37 Catches sight of 38 Campus bigwigs 41 Primary study 44 Rickey flavor 45 Jeans-maker Strauss 48 Gratuity 50 Trench

DOWN 1 Less affluent 2 "Yippee!" 3 Anti-quoted 4 Approach 5 Bert's roomie 6 Wheedles 7 Pinocchio, notably 8 Mess up 9 Wine and dine 10 Swedish money 11 Greenland sight

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-18

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kristin Bell, 29; Vin Diesel, 42; Elizabeth McGovern, 48; Martha Reeves, 68

Happy Birthday: Life-changing situations will help you resolve old issues and put an end to whatever has held you back in the past. Move forward without fear. Love, creativity and emotional awareness will help you decide where and how to pursue your future goals. Positive actions will lead to a happy lifestyle. Your numbers are 4, 13, 22, 25, 31, 34, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Social plans will turn into positive but challenging events. You can show how gifted you are as you command attention and present the wonderful goals you are working toward. Momentum is building and much can be accomplished. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may face conflicts at home but, if you talk about the problems you feel exist, you can resolve issues that have compounded the situation. Listen, observe and make changes that will benefit everyone involved. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Open up about the way you feel and you will be able to solve problems that have been bothering you. Talks with friends, relatives or even a neighbor will help you put things in perspective and get the help you need. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Find out all you can about an opportunity that is being made available. You should be able to get involved and benefit from what's being offered if

you act fast. Don't let someone's dumping responsibilities on you hold you back. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your generosity will grab the attention of someone who has something to offer you in return. A strong alliance will be formed that will lead to greater prosperity. A relationship you care about will develop into something much greater. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Watch carefully how others react around you. It will give you a much better idea regarding your own participation in the events that are unfolding. You can't let anyone railroad you into doing something that is not your responsibility. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a chance and try something new. A long lost friend is probably thinking about you as much as you are about him or her. Make the first move and visit, phone or text to make the first connection. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to forgo some of the things you want to do in order to satisfy someone else's needs. Don't deprive yourself completely or you will resent it. The people you meet and the discussions that develop at a social event will give you new hope. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be drawn toward someone with lots to offer, especially if you decide to partner with this person. A contract can be discussed but, before you move forward, rethink what you are giving and what you are getting. You may have overlooked something important. ***

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get out and mingle with people who know how to enjoy what life has to offer. It never hurts to kick back and show your fun side. Compliments and giving a little back will help you gain added respect. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love is on the rise, so talk about your expectations and hopes for the future. Changes at home will help you develop more options, financially and emotionally. Your lifestyle is ready for a revamping and so are you. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't make a promise that you may have to take back. Problems with loved ones and added responsibilities will limit your time. A private matter will have to be put on the back burner until late in the day. **

Birthday Baby: You have great insight and are a leader. You can capitalize on the information and knowledge you acquire. You are charismatic.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

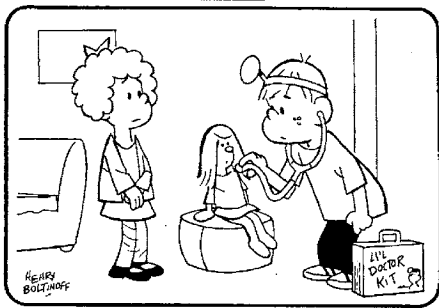
HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PHILIPPINE EAGLES Solution: 6 letters

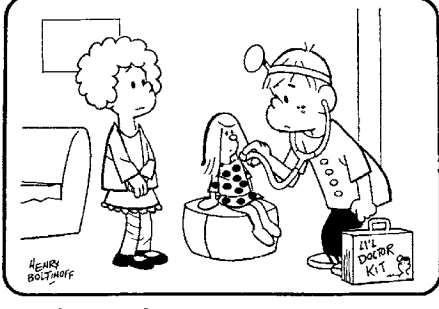
Yesterdays Answer: Lawyer

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Doll's dress has polka dots. 2. Girl's skirt has ruffles. 3. Boy's shirt has buttons. 4. Boy's leg is missing. 5. Bag is moved. 6. Sofa leg is missing.

Wishing Well®

7	3	2	6	4	5	6	3	8	5	2	4	7
B	G	E	B	A	N	U	O	B	O	N	S	A
8	7	8	6	4	2	6	5	6	7	4	6	5
U	S	S	S	J	I	B	N	K	I	E	O	
8	4	8	5	4	5	2	6	7	3	7	5	6
Y	S	D	U	T	N	O	S	I	A	N	D	S
7	4	3	7	3	6	3	6	3	7	5	6	4
Y	O	L	O	S	I	A	S	R	U	S	A	T
2	6	7	5	3	5	6	3	7	2	7	2	4
Y	P	R	F	E	O	L	S	S	H	U	U	H
6	2	6	8	7	2	8	4	7	5	6	7	8
E	M	A	A	C	O	Y	E	C	R	S	E	S
5	7	2	6	7	4	5	4	3	5	6	3	6
Y	S	R	U	S	R	O	S	E	U	R	T	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword SWEET GNAW-THINGS

ACROSS	1 Pugilistic poke	51 "Taras Bulba" author	99 Winter hazard	DOWN	1 Secure spot	41 Sib's kid	87 McCarthy's trunkmate
4 Silenced a squeak	54 Emulate Pinocchio	100 Trattoria treat	2 — mater	2 On the —	42 On the —	42 On the —	89 West. alliance
9 Fuel source	55 Brandy cocktail	101 TV chef Martin	3 Rosary part	3 Rosary part	43 Summer coil	43 Summer coil	92 Brace
13 "Turandot" tenor	58 Protect with plastic	103 "— Shuttie" ('77 song)	5 Roth —	5 Roth —	44 Tristan's tootsie	44 Tristan's tootsie	95 Asta's mistress
18 Heady quaff	61 Resident	104 Seaweed product	6 Exist	6 Exist	46 Actress	46 Actress	96 Snarl
19 Savanna sight	64 "Yours, Mine and —" ('68 film)	105 Bobby's flashlight	7 Temptation location	7 Temptation location	50 Take the honey and run	50 Take the honey and run	97 Banned pesticide
20 Lhasa —	65 Keatsian creation	108 Rodent's Olympic motto?	8 Earl —	8 Earl —	52 Mayberry town drunk	52 Mayberry town drunk	98 London district
21 Arbus apparatus	66 Redact	112 Broad st.	9 Living room	9 Living room	53 "Why don't we?"	53 "Why don't we?"	102 Shake up
22 Rodent's favorite	67 "The Bartered Bride" composer	114 "Gotcha!"	10 Antipollution grp.	10 Antipollution grp.	56 Sadistic	56 Sadistic	104 Actor's actor?
Monkees tune?	68 Rodent's educational level?	115 Article	11 "The —" ('50 film)	11 "The —" ('50 film)	57 In the saddle	57 In the saddle	106 Spassky's game
32 — reaction	69 Rodent's favorite	116 "— Night" ('58 hit)	12 Carry	12 Carry	59 Digression	59 Digression	107 Bit of a beach
34 Diva	70 Serenade accompaniment	117 Apt rhyme for squirm	13 Purrrfect?	13 Purrrfect?	60 Cheerful	60 Cheerful	110 Medical grp.
36 Moon crawler	72 TV's "South —"	119 "L—, c'est moi!"	14 Grandpa McCoy	14 Grandpa McCoy	62 Bk. convenience	62 Bk. convenience	111 TV's "Eight is —"
38 Relative of —ator	74 Road curve	121 Matches	15 Rodent refreshment?	15 Rodent refreshment?	63 Neighbor of Thailand	63 Neighbor of Thailand	112 About to sink
39 Rodent cheese-cake?	75 Rodent's inception	125 Inception	16 Pisces follower	16 Pisces follower	68 Used the microwave	68 Used the microwave	113 Screwdriver ingredient
45 Laundry problem	76 Rodent's educational level?	129 Cartoonist Charles	17 Sapphires	17 Sapphires	69 Digression	69 Digression	118 Spouse
47 Frigga's fellow	77 Rodent's favorite	131 Writer Charles	18 Future officer	18 Future officer	71 Prose piece	71 Prose piece	120 Composer
48 Young boxers	78 Ditt's cousin	133 Fictional rodent?	23 "We've Only Just —" ('70 hit)	23 "We've Only Just —" ('70 hit)	73 Boat bottom	73 Boat bottom	122 Wilder
49 Relished a roast	82 Read quickly	137 "Peer Gynt"	28 Hookey legend	28 Hookey legend	76 Atlanta campus	76 Atlanta campus	123 Binchy's "— Road"
	83 Actress	138 Psychologist	30 Urban transport	30 Urban transport	77 Indentation	77 Indentation	124 Tend the sauce
		139 Veronica of "Hill Street Blues"	33 Sugar amls.	33 Sugar amls.	78 Mintz or Whitney	78 Mintz or Whitney	126 Wallop
			35 Barbecue	35 Barbecue	79 Johnny of "Chocolat"	79 Johnny of "Chocolat"	127 Architect
			37 Christmas visitors	37 Christmas visitors	80 Soap additive	80 Soap additive	128 Saarnin
			140 Surrender	140 Surrender	81 City of rodents?	81 City of rodents?	129 Gibson or Tilis
			141 Big revolver?	141 Big revolver?	85 Architect Jones	85 Architect Jones	130 Unbalanced
			142 Sticky stuff	142 Sticky stuff	86 Window dressing?	86 Window dressing?	134 Wager

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HUMAN ANATOMY: What is the common name for tarsi?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the average lifespan of a housefly?
3. MOVIES: What was the name of the volleyball that became Tom Hanks' companion in "Cast Away"?
4. MEASURES: How much beer would a firkin hold?
5. MYTHOLOGY: What area of life did the Roman goddess Discordia rule?
6. BIBLE: Which of the Ten Commandments forbids thievery?
7. U.S. CITIES: What is the capital of Vermont?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What is the basic currency of North Korea?
9. ASTROLOGY: What is Libra's symbol?
10. LITERATURE: What famous author went by the pseudonym of "Boz"?

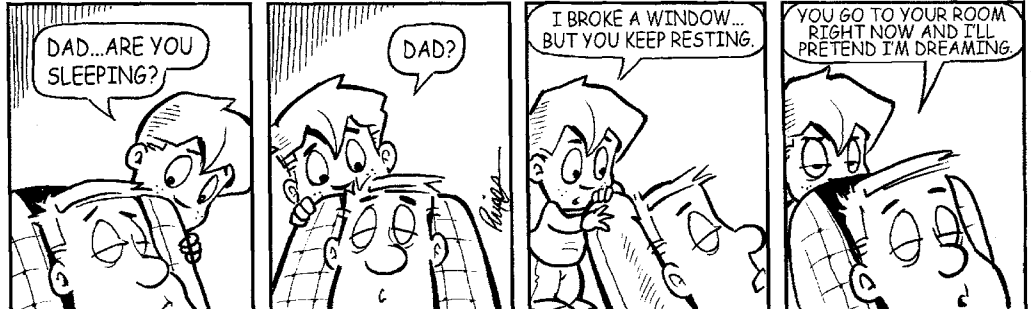
1. Ankle
2. About two to three weeks
3. Wilton
4. Nine gallons
5. Stifle or disorder
6. Eighth Commandment: "You shall not steal"
7. Montpelier
8. The won
9. The scales
10. Charles Dickens

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Saturday's Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Amber Waves

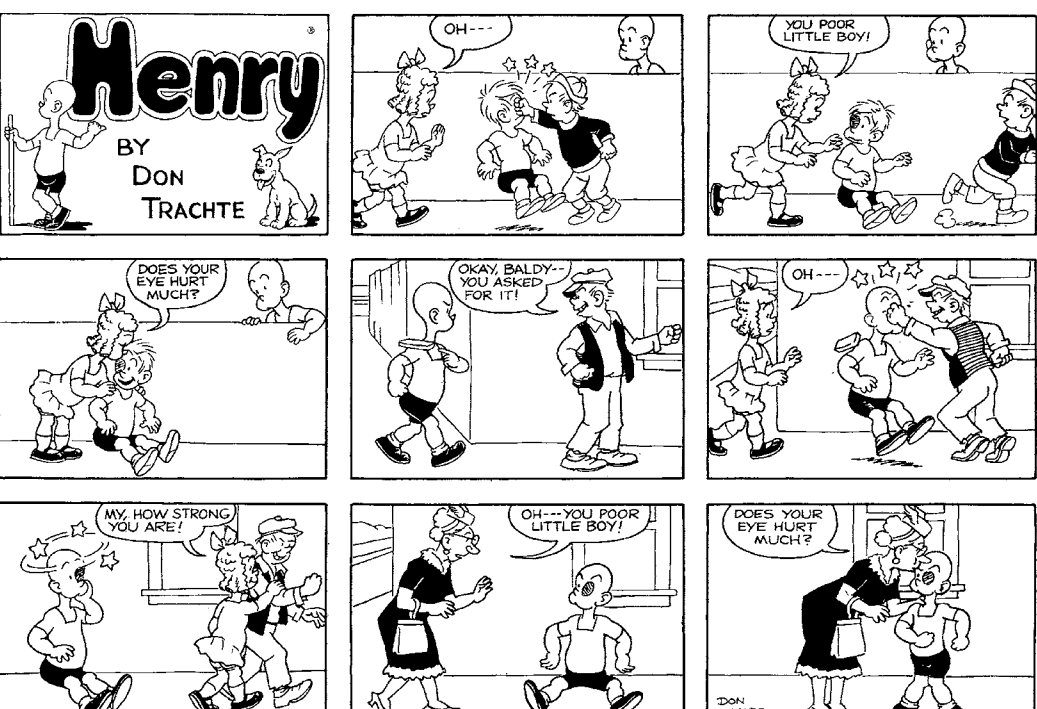


by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



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NOTICE OF BULK SALE
TRANSFER ABOUT TO BE
MADE BY
SAIPAN FITNESS CLUB, INC.
dba GOLD'S GYM
TO MARIANAS FITNESS, LTD.

You and each of you take notice that a bulk transfer of goods is about to be made.

The name of the transferor is Saipan Fitness Club, Inc. and its business address is P.O. Box 503004, Saipan, MP 96950. All other business names and addresses used by transferor within the last three years, so far as known to transferee, are "Gold's Gym."

The name of the transferee is Marianas Fitness, Ltd. and its business address is P.O. Box 500410, Saipan, MP 96950.

As a result of the transaction, all the debts of the transferor are to be paid in full as they fall due. The address to which creditors should send their bills is Saipan Fitness Club, Inc., P.O. Box 503004, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated: July 17, 2009.

Marianas Fitness, Ltd.
By: Russell D. Quinn
Its President

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AUTOMOTIVE

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5-time champ turns it on at Turnberry



TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP)—These kind of things usually don't end well, no matter how much we might want them to. Golf is a tough enough game for even the youngsters playing in this British Open, and 59-year-olds have no business getting in the way—no matter what their pedigree might be.

But then Tom Watson starts talking about feeling something spiritual out on

The day before, he had teased reporters by telling them what a great story it would be if he might somehow win, then laughed at the silliness of it all. He didn't mention anything about the text messages wishing him good luck from a woman named Barbara, who just happens to be married to the man he beat 32 years ago.

He doesn't have many other secrets, because Watson has always been an open book, at least when it comes to golf. He's played on the public stage in four different decades now, and his

142 years ago.

So how about it, Old Tom Watson? What if somehow, some way, it came true?

"It would be amazing," Watson said. "You can put all kinds of superlative adjectives and all sorts of things to it. It would be amazing."

Indeed, the whole thing is way too crazy, something Watson seems to know but won't just come out and say. Not when the competitive juices are flowing and the game that can sometimes be so humiliating is fun again, at

only to find the greatest player ever and a five-time British Open champion engaged in a bit of fun.

Golf hasn't been as much fun lately, and Watson knows time is running out, so that makes the round that left him just a stroke behind Miguel Angel Jimenez so special. British Open champions once had a lifetime pass to the tournament, but the age limit is now 60, meaning next year's tournament at St. Andrews will be his last.

He seems resigned to that and says he doesn't want to play when he has no

chance to win. But he feels he still has a few rounds left in him, and believes there is something magical here that he can't quite explain.

"I feel inspired playing here," Watson said. "It doesn't feel a whole lot out of the ordinary from 32 years ago except that I don't have the confidence in my putting as I had 32 years ago. But, again, a few of them might go in."

They just might, assuming the cosmic gods of golf want it that way.

This is, after all, a love affair between a man and a course.



Tom Watson of the U.S. gestures after finishing on the 18th green during the opening round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course, Scotland, Thursday, July 16, 2009. AP

the links, and you start wondering. He calls the golf course "she," like Turnberry is an eccentric old aunt, and says he feels a serenity when he is with her.

On Thursday, he went out underneath a retro argyle sweater with a 16-year-old as one of his playing partners and shot a 5-under 65 that was as remarkable as it was improbable. It matched the score he posted in the final round on the same course in 1977 to beat Jack Nicklaus by a shot and win the claret jug trophy in what would live in golf lore as the "Duel in the Sun."

The ease with which it came made a lot of his fans—and there are many in Britain, where his success has been great—want to believe. But he's at an age where the supreme confidence of one day can mysteriously disappear by the next.

five British Open wins, second only to Harry Vardon, would testify to a brilliant career even if he had never done anything else.

But win a sixth just nine months after undergoing hip surgery? Against a field that includes Tiger Woods and a host of 20-somethings who hit the ball long and far?

Not likely. Not at an age when nerves fray quicker and muscles ache longer.

Golf may be the one sport that can be played competitively at a comparatively old age, but that age comes with a burden. The oldest player to win one of the four major championships was Julius Boros, who won the 1968 U.S. PGA Championship at 48, and the oldest to win the British was Old Tom Morris himself at 46—and that was

least for a day.

He's been in a similar position before, and it didn't end well. That was the 2003 U.S. Open outside Chicago where the then-53-year-old opened with a 65 before fading and ending up in a tie for 28th.

Watson isn't into sentimental reflection, but he can recite every shot he hit in his famous showdown with Nicklaus, and every hole at Turnberry brings back some different memory.

He beat Nicklaus in 1977 and won the 2003 Senior British Open with a final round 64. And there was the near miss in 1994, when he and Nicklaus had some dinner and a few bottles of wine after the final round, then sneaked on to play the adjoining par-3 course in the dark. A security guard came to shoo them away,

Armstrong looks forward to climbing again at Tour



VITTEL, France (AP)—Lance Armstrong is ready to climb again, ready to leave the pack

at the Tour de France after days of flat riding that belonged to sprinters. After three days of sitting back in the main pack while others challenged for stage wins, the worst thing to happen to Armstrong was a small puncture to his back tire on Thursday's 12th stage. Nicki Sorensen of Denmark won it, Rinaldo Nocentini of Italy kept the yellow jersey, and Armstrong's tire was repaired within a flash.

Finally, on Friday, it's back to serious business as Armstrong goes up against his Astana teammate Alberto Contador on a tricky trek that features one grueling mountain climb.

"Tomorrow is hard, that is a real stage," Armstrong said Thursday. "The climb up Col du Platzerwasel is difficult, it is a long way. It is a longer day and anything can happen."

Armstrong, who retired after his seventh straight Tour win in 2005 only to stun the cycling world by announcing he would race again this year, expects some of the Tour contenders to make their move on Friday.

"You have to watch all the rivals, even someone like (Denis) Menchov," Armstrong said of the Giro d'Italia winner. "Some might say he is five or six minutes behind and his race is finished, but if he gains back time, he has the Alps, and then if he is close enough on the (Mont) Ventoux, he could present a problem."

Armstrong briefly looked to be in trouble after about 37 miles on Thursday, when he had to pull over to let his Astana team repair a puncture in his back wheel.

But after a few moments, four of Armstrong's teammates helped him catch up with the main pack again.

"Up and down all day long and was aggressive from the start," Armstrong said on his Twitter feed.

Although Nocentini will keep the yellow jersey heading into Friday's 13th stage, he is not considered a threat for overall victory—and seemed to be saying he's done the best he can.

"It's a tough stage tomorrow but I'm already really happy," Nocentini said.

He leads Contador by only six seconds and Armstrong by eight.

"We are approaching the really hard stages," Contador said. "It will be a hard day (Friday). Then we will

see how things develop with the uphill finish (to Verbier) on Sunday. In theory I should be OK, because it's up to the others to attack."

Those 'others' are merely the 2008 Tour winner Carlos Sastre, two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans, and Andy Schleck—all of whom are lurking behind Contador and Armstrong.

Schleck is within two minutes of Nocentini's lead, Sastre trails by 2 minutes, 52 seconds, and Evans is 3:07 behind Nocentini.

They could well choose to launch an attack on Friday's 124.2-mile ride between Vittel and Colmar, which also features a tough climb up the Col de la Schlucht.

"I would put Carlos, the Schleck brothers and Evans in the most dangerous category," Armstrong said.

On Thursday, Sorensen earned the first stage win of his Tour career by breaking away and finishing well ahead of Laurent Lefevre.

Sorensen was part of a small group of seven riders that finished several minutes ahead of the main pack after foraging ahead unchallenged during the 131.4-mile trek from Tonnerre to Vittel, which featured six small hills.

The Danish veteran, after years as a support rider in Bjarne Riis' team, finished 48 seconds ahead of Lefevre.

"I'm 34 years old now and it's a big thing for me to perform at this level at this age," Sorensen said. "I started bike racing when I was 19, and I always hoped that I could maybe go on for many years."

The chasing pack, including Nocentini, Armstrong and Contador, finished nearly six minutes behind him.

"We let the breakaway go after four minutes," Nocentini said.

Astana rider Levi Leipheimer fell off his bike about 1.86 miles from the line in a crash involving two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans. Leipheimer had cuts and bruises on his right wrist, shoulder and back. He hopes to resume on Friday.

"My wrist hurts, but surprisingly it's OK. It could have been a lot worse," Leipheimer said. "I was a bit surprised by a left corner ... my tire was sliding and I couldn't quite save my bike from sliding out."

Also Thursday, the International Cycling Union said in a statement that an earpiece ban set for Friday's 13th stage from Vittel to Colmar has been overturned, and riders will be able to race with electronic radio equipment as normal.

Moyer, Howard lead Phils past Marlins



MIAMI
(A P) —
J a m i e
Moyer al-

lowed one hit in seven innings and Ryan Howard became the fastest player to reach 200 homers as Philadelphia extended its winning streak to six games with a 4-0 victory over Florida on Thursday night.

Ryan Madson and J.C. Romero pitched one perfect inning each to complete the one-hitter.

Moyer (9-6) has won all eight of his career starts in Miami, and he's 13-2 overall against the Marlins.

The 29-year-old Howard hit his 23rd homer of the season in the sixth inning to reach the 200 milestone in 658 games, fewer than any player in major league history. Ralph Kiner, previously the fastest player to reach 200, did it in 706 games.

All-Star Raul Ibanez hit two home runs, giving him 24 this season.

Chris Volstad (6-9) pitched six innings and allowed four runs, all on homers. He has given up 20 home runs this season.

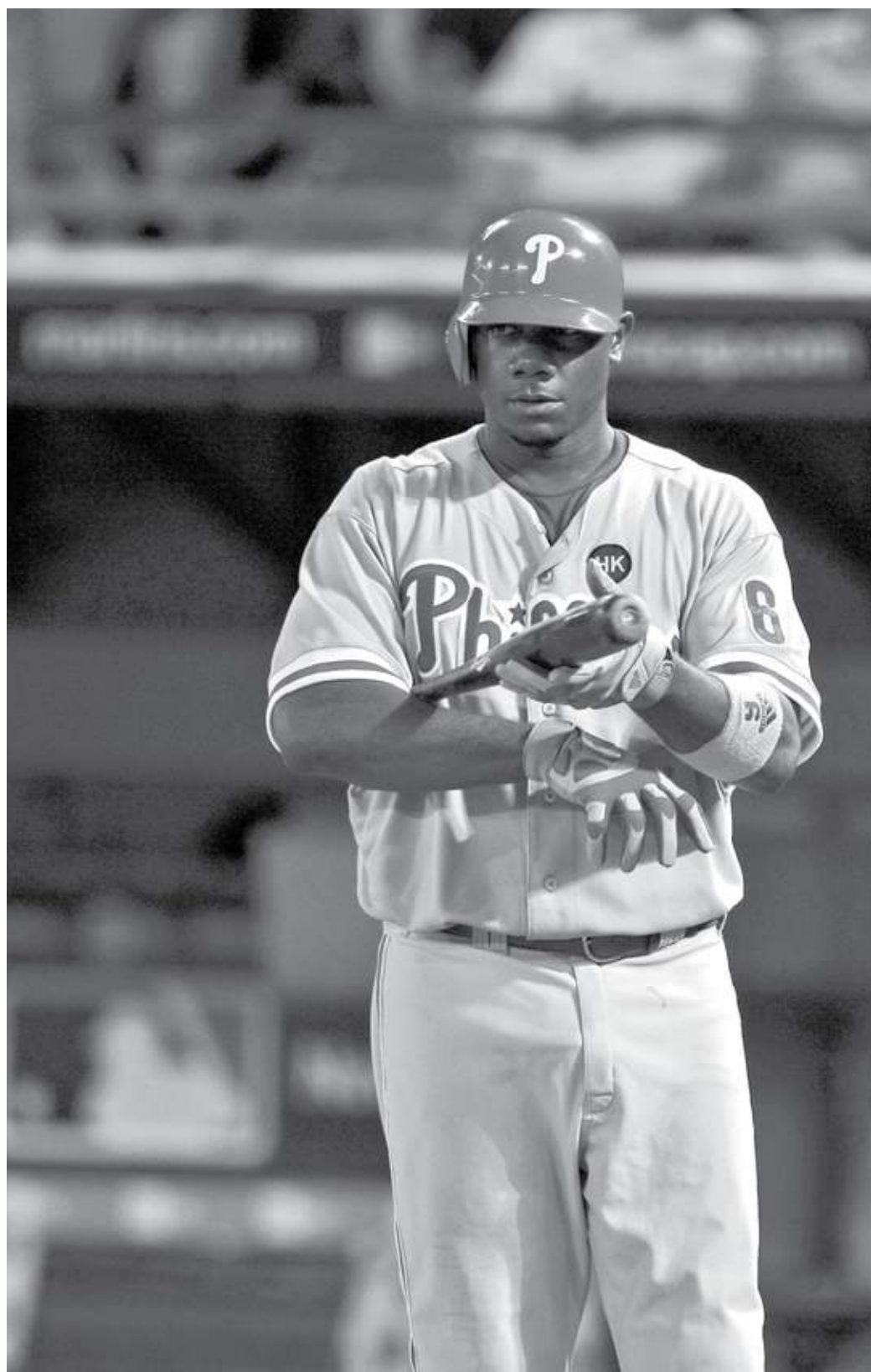
Brewers 9, Reds 6

At Cincinnati, Home Run Derby winner Prince Fielder hit a three-run shot that got Milwaukee going.

Fielder connected in the third inning off Homer Bailey (1-1) to make it 3-0.

Braden Looper (8-4) went 5 1-3 innings and had three hits, including a broken-bat, RBI single that extended Milwaukee's five-run rally in the sixth. The three hits—all singles—matched his total for the season and were a career high.

Seth McClung gave up a three-run homer in the eighth to Edwin Encarnacion, who drove in four runs. Trevor Hoffman pitched the ninth for his 21st save in 23 chances.



Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard prepares to bat in the eighth inning of baseball game against the Florida Marlins in Miami, Thursday, July 16, 2009.

The Reds (42-46) have dropped seven of nine, falling four games under .500 for the first time this season.

Joey Votto hit a two-run homer off Looper, who gave up seven hits and three runs.

Braves 5, Mets 3

At Atlanta, Chipper Jones drove in the go-ahead run for Atlanta in the seventh inning.

The Braves broke a 3-3 tie against the New York bullpen, which gave up two runs in two innings. Atlanta relievers gave up one hit in three scoreless innings.

Pedro Feliciano (2-3) walked pinch-hitter Brooks Conrad, who advanced to third on Martin Prado's hit-and-run single to left off Bobby Parnell. Jones, a .330 career hitter against the Mets, drove in Conrad with a single to right off Parnell. Pinch-hitter Greg Norton added a run-scoring single off Pat Misch, New York's third reliever, in the eighth.

Manny Acosta (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh, Peter Moylan retired the Mets in order in the eighth and Rafael Soriano earned his 13th save.

The Braves took a 2-0 lead in the second on their first back-to-back homers of the season by Yunel Escobar and Anderson.

Cubs 6, Nationals 2

At Washington, Rich Harden allowed three hits over six innings and Derrek Lee homered as Chicago spoiled the debut of Washington interim manager Jim Riggleman.

Harden (6-6), who had won only one of his previous seven starts, improved to 4-1 on the road. He allowed an unearned run, walked none and struck out seven.

The Nationals have lost seven of eight and own the majors' worst record at 26-62. Rigg-

man, who previously managed the Cubs, San Diego and Seattle, replaced the fired Manny Acta on Monday after serving as his bench coach the first half of the season.

Lee had three hits and Ryan Theriot drove in two runs for the Cubs, who have won three of four.

Ryan Zimmerman hit his 15th homer for Washington, a ninth-inning solo shot off Kevin Gregg.

John Lannan (6-7) gave up three runs—two earned—and seven hits over 6 2-3 innings.

Angels 6, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, the Los Angeles Angels opened a two-game gap atop the American League West division standings with a win over the Oakland Athletics.

Pitcher Ervin Santana ended a three-start losing streak, allowing only three hits in eight innings. He has a 10-1 career record against the A's.

Kendry Morales hit a two-run homer in the second inning to kickstart the Angels. That extended his career-best hitting streak to 16 games.

Los Angeles has won four straight to move a season-high 13 games over .500.

Chone Figgins added a two-run double in a four-run fourth and Mike Napoli had a double among his three hits.

Indians 4, Mariners 1

At Cleveland, ace pitcher Cliff Lee won for the first time in more than a month, allowing just one run in his second complete game of the season to steer Cleveland past Seattle.

The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner had lost three straight starts. The Indians scored three runs or less in 11 of his 20 starts. He struck out six and did not issue a walk.

Grady Sizemore, batting leadoff for the first time in two months, had two hits and drove in a run for the Indians.

Free agent in '10, or extension now for NBA stars?

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



LeBron James was more Don King than King James as he faced the cameras to promote the huge event planned for next summer.

"I think July 1, 2010, is a very big day," he said last November. "It's probably going to be one of the biggest days in free-agent history in the NBA."

Unless James and his pals call the whole thing off.

The Cleveland Cavaliers can offer the NBA's MVP a contract extension Saturday, shortly after fellow potential 2010 free agents Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh became eligible to receive theirs on the three-year anniversary of the signing of their last

deals.

If all three accepted, it would halt the talk of next year boasting the deepest free-agent class in league history.

Miami presented Wade with his offer immediately. Toronto president Bryan Colangelo intends to offer Bosh the extension but has indicated he will wait until after he has filled out the Raptors' roster for next season.

None are expected to sign—they can re-up for longer and make millions more by waiting a year—but the agent for Bosh and Wade will study them.

"I will just say that I will evaluate everything about any extension offers they receive," Henry Thomas wrote in an e-mail. "It is simply an option that will be evaluated and considered."

James' agent, Leon Rose,

didn't return a request for comment.

James didn't give the impression he was thinking about an extension when he made his prediction last fall. That was back when the 2010 free agency frenzy was at its peak, with James playing in New York only days after the Knicks had boldly positioned themselves for a run at him with a pair of trades that opened up loads of salary cap room.

The enthusiasm has dampened now, though. The economic downturn and the resulting drop in revenues have sent forecasts for the 2010-11 salary cap tumbling, with the NBA warning teams it could come in some \$10 million lower than the \$62-63 million that was previously expected.

The decreasing cap means

little personally to James, Wade and Bosh, especially if they resign with their teams. What it can do is crush any hopes they might have of playing somewhere together, because a cap in the low \$50-million range would make it difficult to afford two maximum salary players and fill out a professional roster around them.

But if that's going to convince them to stay put, would they decide to do it now?

The All-Star trio can receive three-year extensions, tacked on to the two years left on their current deals, for a total value of about \$95.2 million through the 2013-14 season.

If they opt out of their deals next summer and re-sign with their current teams, they would be allowed to sign six-year contracts. That would earn them

\$125.7 million through 2015-16. Signing with another team limits deals to five years with smaller annual raises each season, giving them a top value of \$96.2 million.

So the answer seems obvious: Sign again with the current teams, but don't do it this summer.

That would keep the expected 2010 bonanza in play, which was the plan all along when the trio opted against maximum length deals three years ago, when they signed extensions of their rookie contracts. They were eligible for six-year contracts, but instead chose three years plus an option.

That positioned them for free agency and a chance to cash in under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, which expires in 2011. Rules could be

put in place in the next one that could limit how much they'd make in another deal.

Players can agree to the extensions anytime next season, so there's no need to rush. Waiting gives the players more time to evaluate the direction of their franchises, something Wade in particular has said will influence his decision.

Some of the options available next summer may have dwindled for financial reasons, but Bosh maintains that the contractual decisions he made in 2006 were the right ones.

"I never live with regret," he said near the end of last season. "I made the decision I made. There's nothing to do with anything with the economy, it's all about being in position, putting myself in position to make the best choice for myself down the road."

Now it's time for the next decision.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	54	34	.614	—
New York	51	37	.580	3
Tampa Bay	48	41	.539	6 1/2
Toronto	44	46	.489	11
Baltimore	40	48	.455	14

Central Division

Detroit	48	39	.552	—
Chicago	45	43	.511	3 1/2
Minnesota	45	44	.506	4
Kansas City	37	51	.420	11 1/2
Cleveland	36	54	.400	13 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	50	37	.575	—
Texas	48	39	.552	2
Seattle	46	43	.517	5
Oakland	37	50	.425	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Philadelphia	49	38	.563	—
Florida	46	45	.505	5
Atlanta	44	45	.494	6
New York	42	46	.477	7 1/2
Washington	26	62	.295	23 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	49	42	.538	—
Milwaukee	46	43	.517	2
Chicago	44	43	.506	3
Houston	45	44	.506	3
Cincinnati	42	46	.477	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	38	50	.432	9 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	56	33	.629	—
San Francisco	49	39	.557	6 1/2
Colorado	48	41	.539	8
Arizona	38	51	.427	18
San Diego	36	53	.404	20

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 4, Seattle 1
L.A. Angels 6, Oakland 2
Chicago Cubs 6, Washington 2
Milwaukee 9, Cincinnati 6
Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 3
Philadelphia 4, Florida 0
Colorado 10, San Diego 1
Houston 3, L.A. Dodgers 0

BRITISH OPEN SCORES

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP)—Scores Thursday from the British Open, the \$6.8 million major at 7,204-yard, par-70 (35-35) Ailsa Course at Turnberry (a-amateur):

FIRST ROUND

Miguel Angel Jimenez	31-33-64
Tom Watson	33-32-65
Ben Curtis	33-32-65
Kenichi Kuboya	35-30-65
John Senden	35-31-66
Steve Stricker	34-32-66
Camilo Villegas	35-31-66
Stewart Cink	32-34-66
Matthew Goggin	32-34-66
Mark Calcavecchia	34-33-67
Mark O'Meara	33-34-67
Vijay Singh	34-33-67
Boo Weekley	34-33-67
Branden Grace	35-32-67
Steve Marino	36-31-67
Mike Weir	33-34-67
Retief Goosen	34-33-67
Jim Furyk	33-34-67
James Kingston	33-34-67
Richard Sterne	32-35-67
Anthony Wall	35-33-68
Graeme McDowell	33-35-68
Sean O'Hair	35-33-68
Anders Hansen	34-34-68
Lee Westwood	33-35-68
Ryo Ishikawa	35-33-68
David Howell	31-37-68
D.J. Trahan	34-34-68
Soren Kjeldsen	34-34-68
Andres Romero	32-36-68
Soren Hansen	32-36-68
J.B. Holmes	34-34-68
Paul Casey	31-37-68
John Daly	33-35-68
Tom Lehman	35-33-68
Terry Pilkadaris	34-34-68
G.Fernandez-Castano	35-34-69
Thongchai Jaidee	35-34-69
Billy Mayfair	36-33-69
Ross Fisher	35-34-69
Ernie Els	33-36-69
Martin Kaymer	36-33-69
Justin Rose	36-33-69
Rory McIlroy	34-35-69
Angel Cabrera	34-35-69
Padraig Harrington	34-35-69
Davis Love III	37-32-69
Kevin Sutherland	35-34-69
David Drysdale	34-35-69
Steve Strury	34-35-69
Paul Broadhurst	36-34-70

Jeff Overton	36-34-70
Nick Dougherty	37-33-70
Sergio Garcia	34-36-70
Peter Hanson	36-34-70
Louis Oosthuizen	36-34-70
Robert Allenby	34-36-70
Justin Leonard	36-34-70
Chris Wood	35-35-70
Bryce Molder	36-34-70
Matt Kuchar	33-37-70
Zach Johnson	34-36-70
Fredrik Jacobson	32-38-70
Richard S. Johnson	37-33-70
Josh Geary	36-34-70
Elliot Saltman	36-34-70
David Smail	34-36-70
Nick Watney	37-34-71
Charl Schwartzel	37-34-71
David Duval	37-34-71
Adam Scott	35-36-71
Kenny Perry	34-37-71
Henrik Stenson	37-34-71
a-Matteo Manassero	35-36-71
Luke Donald	37-34-71
Darren Clarke	35-36-71
Tiger Woods	34-37-71
Richard Green	37-34-71
Ken Duke	38-33-71
Mark Brown	37-34-71
Johan Edfors	35-36-71
Markus Brier	36-35-71
Ben Crane	36-35-71
Gaganjeet Bhullar	36-35-71
Alvaro Quiros	34-37-71
Tim Clark	37-34-71
Colin Montgomerie	34-37-71
Tomohiro Kondo	34-37-71
Paul Lawrie	36-35-71
Stuart Appleby	34-37-71
Paul McGinley	35-36-71
Charley Hoffman	37-34-71
Francesco Molinari	32-39-71
Thomas Levett	37-34-71
Thomas Aiken	37-34-71
Peter Hedblom	33-38-71
Fredrik Andersson Hed	35-36-71
Graeme Storm	38-34-72
Rafa Echenique	35-37-72
Oliver Wilson	35-37-72
Briny Baird	37-35-72
Brandt Snedeker	36-36-72
Stephen Ames	36-36-72
Lucas Glover	37-35-72
Hunter Mahan	38-34-72
David Toms	34-38-72
Paul Goydos	37-35-72
Gary Orr	37-36-73
Richard Finch	35-38-73
Bubba Watson	37-36-73
Chad Campbell	36-37-73
Prayad Marksaeng	35-38-73
Robert Rock	38-35-73
David Higgins	38-35-73
Rhys Davies	38-35-73
Brian Gay	37-36-73
Charles Howell III	38-35-73
Anthony Kim	38-35-73
Timothy Wood	39-35-74
Rory Sabbatini	36-38-74
Rod Pampling	36-38-74
Martin Laird	35-39-74
Thomas Haylock	37-37-74
Tim Stewart	32-42-74
Jeremy Kavanagh	38-36-74
K.J. Choi	37-37-74
Ryuji Imada	36-38-74
Carl Pettersson	37-37-74
a-Stephan Gross	36-38-74
Peter Baker	36-39-75
Azuma Yano	37-38-75
Raphael Jacquelin	37-38-75
Marc Cayeux	41-34-75
Lloyd Saltman	37-38-75
Lloyd Saltman	39-36-75
Daniel Wardrop	42-33-75
Sandy Lyle	38-37-75
Todd Hamilton	36-39-75
Ian Poulter	38-38-76
Geoff Ogilvy	39-37-76
Yuta Ikeda	38-38-76
Daniel Gaunt	36-40-76
James Driscoll	38-39-77
Koumei Oda	38-39-77
Greg Norman	38-39-77
Wen-Chong Liang	38-39-77
Richie Ramsay	38-39-77
Michael Wright	37-40-77
Peter Ellebye	39-39-78
Michael Campbell	38-40-78
Dustin Johnson	37-41-78
Damien McGrane	36-42-78
Nick Faldo	36-42-78
Bruce Vaughn	37-42-79
Pablo Larrazabal	40-39-79
Oliver Fisher	39-44-83
Jaco Ahlers	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UFO STANDINGS
Open Division

MDX	6	0
SIP	5	1
SMF	2	3
NMBA	2	3
Bayani	2	4
VisMinda	2	4
Cabalen	1	5

Floyd to pay foe to step aside for Pacquiao



Undeclared former pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr., in an interview with the Grand Rapids Press, informed that he is willing to pay Juan Manuel Marquez to step aside to pave the way for a showdown with Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao.

Mayweather returns after a self-imposed retirement when he takes on Marquez on September 19 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

If Pacquiao requests the fight, Mayweather indicated that he is willing to pay Marquez to step aside so the fight can be made. Pacquiao is set to face WBO welterweight champion Miguel Cotto on November 14.

"If Manny Pacquiao really wanted the fight with me, all he's got to do is say it," Mayweather said. "We could pay Marquez some step-aside money. Pay him a million dollars, that's nothing. Step aside. Then, my man, me and you can make seven figures. Is you ready? Let me know."

Mayweather, however, has remained firm on his stance not to give Pacquiao a 50-50 slice of the purse should the fight push through. He has sold more pay-per-view buys against Oscar De La Hoya and Ricky Hatton than Pacquiao did with the same two fighters. Mayweather says Pacquiao would have to settle for less money.

"Everybody knows Pacquiao is not going to get 50-50 with Floyd Mayweather," Mayweather



added. "Look at what Pacquiao made his last two fights and look at what I made my last two fights. It's still a business, even though it's a sport."

Pacquiao is currently in Cebu to visit friends and for a short rest and recreation while at the same time hosting a major cockfighting event in Mandaue City along with his adviser Rex "Wackee" Salud. (PDI)

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I am confident they will do well in Australia," he added.

CNMI athletes' results will

be compared against the athletes from Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati to determine the Top 3 finishers in the running, jumping, and throwing

events in MAC.

Member countries in the Polynesia and Melanesia championships will also keep their own results.

Island-nations participating in the Polynesian tournament are

da's silence in the 1:42 mark in the extension period and a triple from Jawn Joyner moved the team within three, 97-100, with 1:16 left in the game.

However, MDX preserved the win, as VisMinda missed several shots and Jun Pantaleon made two big defensive stops in the closing seconds of the overtime.

After Joyner's triple, VisMinda had a chance to inch in closer, as MDX was called for a 24-second shot clock violation. Peredo pulled up for a jumper and missed, Manalo grabbed the rebound and attempted a putback, but also faltered. John Artates collared another offensive rebound and was fouled on his way to the basket.

Artates had a split, cutting the lead to two, 100-98, with 23 seconds left in the game. Joyner swiped the ball out of the driving Demapan's hands in MDX's offensive set, returning possession to VisMinda.

Peredo had the ball on his hands, anew and almost made a

turnover, when he lost the leather while dribbling toward the right baseline. Fortunately for VisMinda, referee Fyke Sabino overruled Fando Muleta's call, saying the ball hit an MDX player last before going out of the sideline.

Peredo tried attacking the basket again, but Pantaleon tapped the ball out of his hands with eight seconds remaining in the game. VisMinda regained possession and Mateo made a baseline inbound pass to Manolo Manalo. Manalo received the ball and turned right attempting a fall-away jumper, but Pantaleon's quick hands were there, anew to steal the ball and then threw a pitch to Demapan. Demapan then ran the clock down, ensuring the sixth straight win for MDX.

In the second game, defending champion Samahang Ilo-kano at Pangasinense is also on a roll, cruising to its fifth win in a row after a 105-83 triumph over Bayani.

Elmer Esdrelon logged a game-high 30 points, making 16

SGA holds July Ace this Sunday



The July Ace of the Month will be at stake when

Saipan Golfers Association holds a tournament this Sunday, July 19, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Check-in time is at 10am, while tee off is at 11am. Winner of this weekend's tournament will earn a slot to the SGA Ace of Aces Tournament in December. There will be slots open for 24 participants.

For more information about Sunday's tournament, contact Martin Sablan at 483-6278, Larry Guerrero at 287-1052, or Mariano Fajardo at 483-2549

American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tahiti, and Tonga. Listed in the Melanesian event are Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

in the second quarter where SIP began controlling the game after taking only a one-point lead at the end of the first period, 23-22.

First Game

MDX 100 – Tamayo 28, De Vero 16, Demapan 12, Abuel 11, Melv. Capalad 9, Bernardo 8, Melj. Capalad 8, Pantaleon 5, Basila 3.

VisMinda 98 – Joyner 23, Peredo 18, Montano 16, Artates 16, Barrios 8, Morales 8, Mateo 6, Manalo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-22, 51-47, 74-72, 92-92, 100-98.

Second Game

SIP 105 – Esdrelon 30, Camacho 20, Taliana 13, Mateo 13, Factor 10, Palero 5, Lauron 4, Fernandez 4, Mendiola 4, Vil-lacrusis 2.

Bayani 83 – Barbo 20, Delos Reyes 17, Sanciango 14, Tabora 12, Abuy 5, Palma 5, Aquino 4, Lansang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 54-48, 80-64, 105-83.

HEO

From Page 28

land's Ari Davis, 6-4, 6-4. Heo advanced to the quarterfinals before bowing to tournament top seed and eventual winner Barret Franks of New Zealand, 3-6, 6-7 (6-8).

Heo's twin wins in Fiji allowed him to move up to as high as No. 959 (as of July 6, 2009) in the Junior ITF rankings.

Currently, the Marianas High School student holds a 4-7 record in singles and 5-8 slate in doubles this year. He has 5-15 and 7-15 career marks in singles and doubles, respectively.

MICRO

From Page 28

casing Saipan's natural beauty. The early registration dead-

line for the 2009 Micro Cup is Oct. 1, 2009. Those registering on or before this date need to pay only a \$300 entry fee per team. Teams registering after Oct. 1, 2009 will be charged a

\$400 entry fee per team.

For those teams interested in competing, all event information, including registration forms, rules, discounted airfare by Continental Airlines and ac-

commodation information, and a tentative schedule, is located at www.saipanoutrigger.org. Please direct any questions to the race administrator at saipanoutrigger@gmail.com. (PR)



5-time champ turns it on at Turnberry

These kind of things usually don't end well, no matter how much we might want them to.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Moyer, Howard lead Phils past Marlins

Jamie Moyer allowed one hit in seven innings and Ryan Howard became the fastest player to reach 200 homers as Philadelphia extended its winning streak to six games with a 4-0 victory over Florida on Thursday night.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 11 athletes who will represent the CNMI to the Oceania Regional Championships 2009 in Australia next month train at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility last Wednesday. Not in the photo is Tyrone Omar.

12 named to CNMI track team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel is returning to Australia next month, as he will be leading a 12-player CNMI Team that will compete in the Oceania Regional Championships 2009.



Oceania Half Marathon Championships, on the team are Jacque Wonenberg, Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Clayton Kenty,

Joining Kabiriel, who was in Land Down Under early this month for the 2009

Jesus Iguel, Douglas Dillay, Lia Rangamar, Trevor Ogumoro, Matt Mancao, Tyrone Omar, and Ryan Ichihara.

The Oceania Regional Championships 2009 will run from Aug. 4 to 6 in Gold Coast, Australia. The event is a consolidation of the regional athletics championships in Micronesia, Polynesia, and Melanesia. MAC

was originally set for December this year in Palau, the Polynesian meet was scheduled for this month in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands, and the Melanesian tournament was to take place in Gold Coast, Australia next month.

The Oceania Athletics Association created the regional championships as cost-cutting measures at this time of economic crisis.

Elias Rangamar, who will be one of the CNMI's coaches in the meet, said the Commonwealth's bets will compete along with Oceania's powerhouse—Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. However, results from CNMI athletes will be compiled for the MAC rankings.

"It will be a great opportunity for our runners to run against

some of the fastest sprinters in the region. They will be motivated and challenged by this fast runners," Rangamar said.

"We are hoping to make several personal best times and hopefully new CNMI records. Our athletes have been training for the past six months and the last three were rigorous ones, so

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Heo improves Junior ITF rankings



Heo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Ji Hoon Heo moved several notches up to the Junior ITF rankings following his victories in three off-island tournaments this summer.

Heo, who was ranked No. 1,255 before leaving Saipan early last month, is now at the No. 978 spot (as of July 13, 2009) after competing in New Caledonia, Fiji, and Australia.

The CNMI netter earned five rankings points from the Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Calédonie 2009, as he made it to the Round of 16 in the singles competition.

The 17-year-old CNMI bet drew a bye in the first round in Noumea, was paired against Japanese Reike Kajishita in the next round, and won in three sets, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2. Heo then dueled Australia's Chris O'Connell and lost, 6-1, 6-0.

Next up for Heo was the Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships 2009 in Lautoka, Fiji. He won two matches in Fiji, beating Arman Abdollahi of Australia in the second round, 6-2, 6-1, and New Zea-

See HEO on Page 27

MDX outlasts VisMinda in OT, SIP wins



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX's Kae Bernardo, center, drives against VisMinda's Manolo Manalo, left, and Jawn Joyner during their overtime game in the UFO caging last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MDX survived another scare, pulling off a 100-98 overtime win over VisMinda in the open division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

The victory helped MDX-Chow Queen keep its clean record after six games, while the loss dropped VisMinda to a 2-4 slate.

Kae Bernardo, who canned the game-winning basket in MDX's 93-91 win over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association last Saturday, made six of the team's eight points in overtime to foil VisMinda's bid for an upset.

VisMinda had a chance to win the game in regulation and hand MDX its first defeat, but Dan Mateo muffed two free throws in the last 12 seconds of the fourth quarter.

After Mateo's second miss, Bernardo grabbed the rebound, but Mateo stole it. Bon Tamayo made a counter steal on Mateo's entry pass in the paint to Errol Peredo. Tamayo still had the

See MDX on Page 27

Micro Cup outrigger canoe competition this Oct.



The Micronesian Cup, Micronesia's premier regional outrigger canoe competition, returns to the sandy beaches, coral reefs, and crystal waters of Saipan this coming October.

Saipan last hosted the Micro Cup in 2006, an event that attracted teams from Japan, Singapore, Palau, Guam, and Hong Kong.

This year's Micronesian Cup will be from Oct. 24 to 25, 2009.

As in 2006, teams from Micronesia, Asia, and Oceania will convene on Saipan to compete in a full day of 500m and 1,500m sprint races, followed by a long-distance race, which tests paddlers' endurance while show-

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